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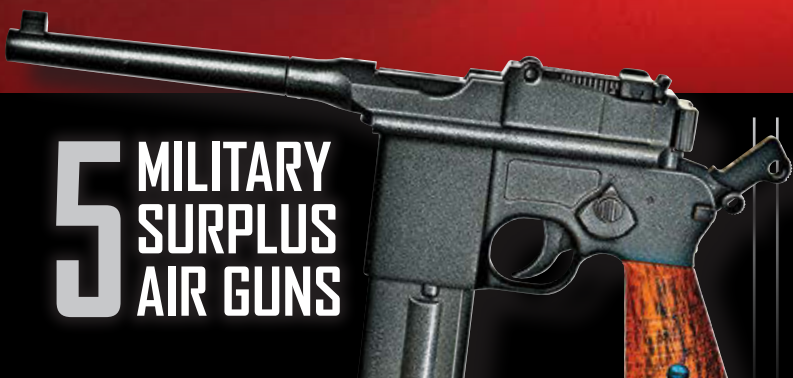
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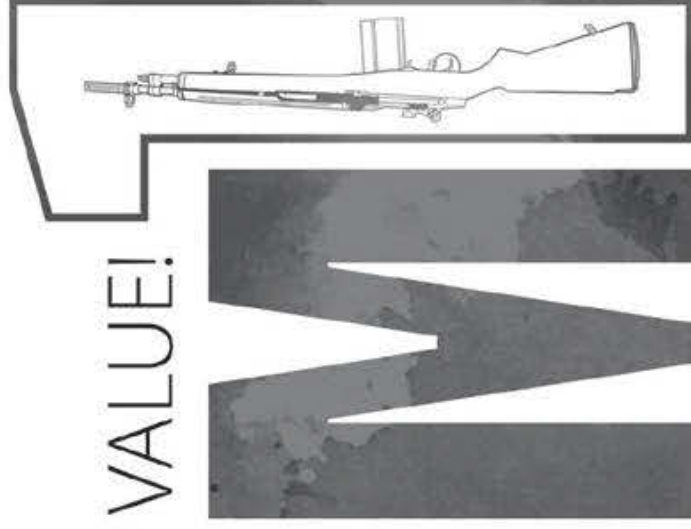
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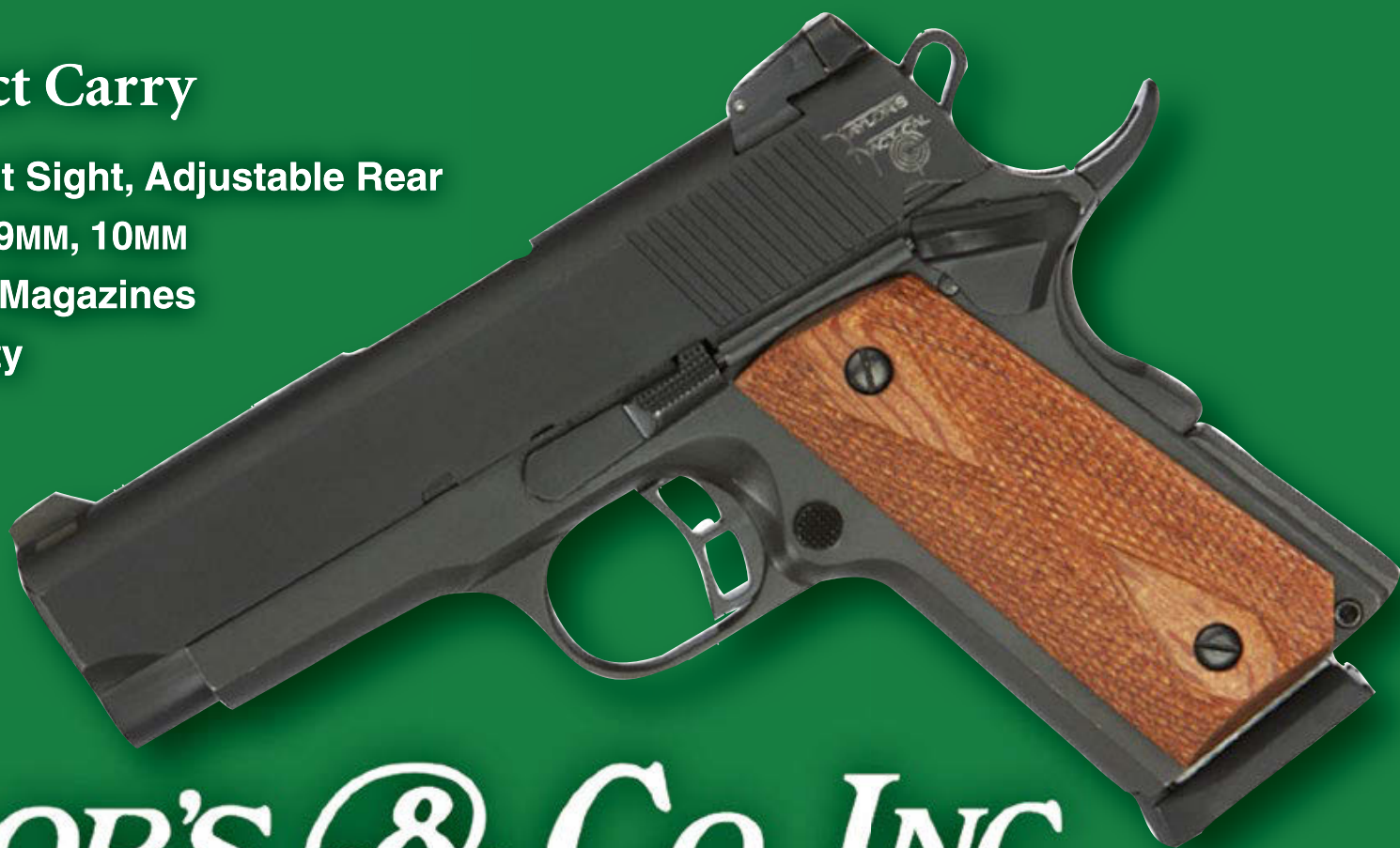
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COMBAT HANDGUNS

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 4

► FEATURE



JUNE 2015

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► **DON'T BE A VICTIM!**



IT HAPPENED TO ME!

STALKER TAKEDOWN

Woman fights for her life against violent ex-boyfriend!



PHOTO COURTESY GLOCK

“The woman grabbed her 9mm handgun and fired twice, hitting the man once on the right side of his chest...”

A 22-year-old Las Vegas woman was gripped by terror while being stalked relentlessly by her ex-boyfriend. The torment didn't stop until he attempted to break into her home in September 2014 and she was forced to shoot him. Police said one round from her 9mm struck him in the chest.

There had been plenty of chances for the man to take “no” for an answer. Police records show, however, that he became more aggressive with each rebuff. The woman told investigators that she started dating her ex-boyfriend earlier in the year, but his behavior became “obsessive.” She reported that, during one romantic encounter, he bit her face.

“She felt it was really weird and decided to stop seeing him around the end

of February,” police said in their report. Within a month, however, the ex-boyfriend started showing up at her home uninvited, “making threats and demanding that she speak to him,” police said. The harassment continued with threatening phone calls and text messages.

“He said he made over 15 Facebook profiles trying to get to her through her friends,” police said in the report. In May the woman was granted a restraining order against the man, but it wasn't served because he didn't have a “regular address,” according to police.

Neighbors observed the ex-boyfriend's behavior and feared him.

Consequently, police said, the woman was evicted in July because “neighbors felt they weren't safe.” She moved, but the man still found her. In late August, he made threats to kill himself or go after her family, police said.

One night, at about 1 a.m., the woman was watching TV when she heard a loud noise. She looked down the stairwell and saw that the front door frame had been broken—and her ex-boyfriend's face was in the broken door's opening.

The woman grabbed her 9mm handgun and fired twice, hitting the man once on the right side of his chest, according to police. The suspect fled, but police found him hiding in some nearby bushes. He was treated at the hospital and pleaded guilty to aggravated stalking.

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

Airport security guard brings burglar to justice!

A security guard and a burglar locked eyes last December at a rural airport in southern Washington. Security guard Darren Lacock, armed with a .40-caliber pistol, had just tapped on a window of the terminal building at Columbia Gorge Regional Airport,



Darren Lacock (left) holds a burglary suspect at gunpoint following a break-in at the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport near Dallesport, Washington. Later, the suspect pleaded guilty to the burglary.

ROLF ANDERSON PHOTO

near Dallesport, Washington, to get the attention of a burglar who was at a counter, stuffing his pockets with candy and soft drinks.

The man was so startled that he flung a box of candy into the air. But Lacock was also taken aback when he saw the man's expression instantly change from shock to defiant rage.

Lacock's parents, both former law enforcement officers, taught him about the body language of dangerous people. "If you gauge their facial expressions," he said, "you can learn what they're going to do—you know whether it's going to be fight or flight." In this incident the burglar seemed ready to fight.

It began in the early-morning hours of December 5, 2014, when the airport manager, who stayed late because of icy weather, heard a loud crash coming from the terminal. The manager called 911 after first alerting Lacock, who handles fuel and other duties for the airport's fixed-base operator. But Lacock, being a concealed-carry license holder for 24 years, also works security at the airport.

Lacock and the man stared briefly at each other, then the burglar took a step. Lacock prayed he would stop, but took no chances and raised his pistol.

"I told him, 'You're about to make a bad choice,'" Lacock said. "His expression changed to 'Oh, crap, I'm going to die here.'" The suspect stayed on the floor until local sheriff's deputies took him into custody.

Lacock had reason for caution. The suspect had been jailed earlier on a drug possession charge. He also faced an assault charge for allegedly using a gun to threaten another man. The suspect pleaded guilty to the drug charge and the airport burglary and was sentenced to eight months and ordered to pay for repairs at the airport.

Lacock, also a volunteer firefighter, was relieved the man surrendered. "For what he was taking...it wasn't worth his life," Lacock said. "But I made a decision. If he was going to attack me or my boss standing nearby, I was going to fire." **CH**

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GOOD GUYS V. BAD & UGLY

10 cases show how armed citizens make a difference against mass murderers! BY MASSAD AYOOB



ALFREDO RICO PHOTO

IN EARLY JANUARY OF 2015, TWO FANATICS ATTACKED THE OFFICES OF A SATIRICAL PUBLICATION IN PARIS, CHARLIE HEDBO.

They murdered 12 people, including two police officers, wounded another 11 and escaped. According to some accounts, the two slain policemen were unarmed and helpless to fight back. The attackers were killed in a gunfight with police after taking a hostage in a signage company outside Paris. At the same time, a related group of fanatics took hostages in a Jewish delicatessen in Paris, where they, too, were neutralized by French police, but not before more innocent casualties were tallied. These events resulted in, among other things, one of the most influential rabbis in Europe calling for more Jews to be armed, and for many in the region—and in the United States—to publicly speculate whether armed citizens might have been able to reduce the incident's casualty count.

The perpetrators in Paris were heavily armed, with sources reporting shortly after the incident that they possessed AK-47s, a submachine gun, pistols, a shotgun and explosive devices. Skeptics scoffed, "How could one defender with a pistol defeat that sort of firepower?" If that's the question and the *Charlie Hedbo* massacre is considered **Case One**, the answer is **Case Two**, which took place

in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1993. In that incident, four terrorists armed with fully automatic assault weapons and hand grenades attacked the Saint James Church. Their sudden, violent assault killed 11 victims and wounded 58. But a single armed citizen named Charl van Wyk was able to draw his personal carry gun, a five-shot snub-nosed .38 Special revolver, and open fire. He wounded one of the attackers, and all four were so jarred off their plan by this unexpected return of gunfire that they broke off the attack and fled.

Homeland Terror

Case Three: Last year in Moore, Oklahoma, a man went berserk in a food plant and attacked a female worker, literally decapitating her. He then went after a second woman. Hearing the screams, Chief Operating Officer Mark Vaughan availed himself of a firearm, ran to the scene and shot down the killer.

Sometimes, taking the perpetrator at gunpoint is enough to stop the screams. More than 15 years ago, I debriefed Joel Myrick, the hero of **Case Four**. A vicious teen had stabbed his mother to death the night before to gain access to his estranged father's locked gun cabinet. He subsequently showed up at the high school in Pearl, Mississippi, and opened

fire. Hearing shots and screams, Vice Principal Myrick ran to the parking lot and retrieved his Colt Officer's .45, with which he confronted the escaping killer. The young monster, who had killed two young victims and wounded 11, surrendered as soon as he looked down the barrel of the vice principal's sidearm. He had been on course, with the stolen .30-30 rifle and more ammunition, to a nearby junior high school when Myrick captured him.

More recent was **Case Five**, the Clackamas Mall shooting in Oregon, in which a psycho with a semi-automatic rifle opened fire. Nick Melli, a young man with security guard training and carrying a .40 pistol on a permit, drew and took aim at the gunman. Melli didn't fire, for fear of hitting innocents behind the perpetrator, but the gunman at that point fled through an employees-only doorway and down an inside hall, where he then committed suicide. What could have been a high-casualty mass murder was apparently aborted by the mere sight of an armed citizen.

Good Guys With Guns

Sometimes, it becomes necessary to shoot the perpetrator to stop or prevent a massacre. When a man tried to shoot up a church for the second time, **Case**

Six went down. Jeanne Assam was an ex-cop working volunteer security for the New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 2007, when she heard the opening volley of shots and literally “ran to the sound of the guns.” Armed with the 9mm pistol she was licensed to carry as an armed citizen, she shot the killer on the run and dropped him, at which time he shot himself, concluding the matter. Assam was hailed for her courageous act, which indisputably saved many lives.

Case Seven would be ignored by the same mainstream media that focused intensely on a mass murder in a theater in the same city three months later. In Aurora, Colorado, in 2012, a crazed gunman showed up at a church there and opened fire by surprise, killing a helpless woman. Before he could claim any more victims, however, he was shot and killed by an off-duty police officer among the parishioners, who was carrying his own handgun. The incident occurred at the New Destiny Christian Center.

Another off-duty cop cut short a massacre in **Case Eight**, the mass shooting at Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2007. Kenneth Hammond was having dinner with his wife in a mall restaurant when he heard the shots, and responded. The killer had slain five helpless victims and wounded four when Hammond spotted him and opened fire with his subcompact 1911. The carnage ended there: Hammond pinned the gunman in position with judicious shots, making him forget about inflicting death and focus on preventing his own until the first responding officer arrived. The gunman was eventually killed by SWAT officers. It should be noted that, for most intents and purposes, there is very little difference in cases like these between an off-duty cop and a competent armed citizen—each is the proverbial “good guy with a gun.”

Sometimes the good guy isn’t supposed to have a gun but does. **Case Nine** occurred in Pennsylvania last year, when an enraged man entered a psychiatric clinic and shot a caseworker dead and wounded one of the doctors before the latter drew a small-caliber pistol and shot the man down, limiting the death toll to one. The doctor recovered and, declared a hero by local police, suffered no consequences for being armed in a “gun-free” zone. I was on a panel with three psychologists that discussed this case for the “Ethics and Psychology” podcast. The general consensus was that the Pennsylvania doctor had done the right thing and prevented a massacre.

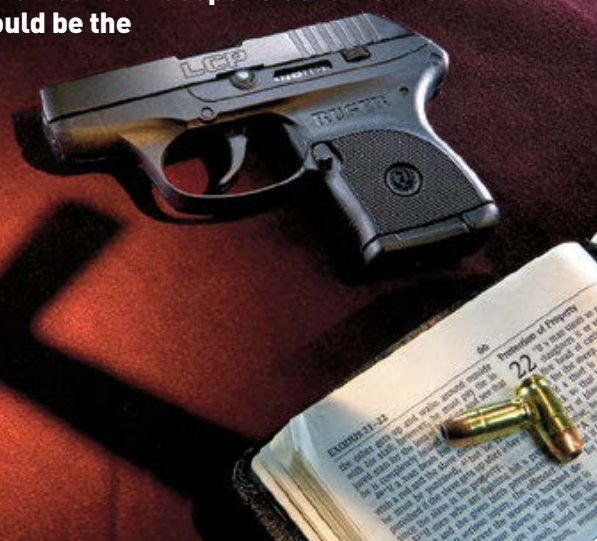
Nothing New

Mass murders stopped by armed citizens go back a ways in history. Let’s return 100 years to **Case Ten** in 1915, when *The New York Times* ran a headline that read, “Kills five, wounds 20, and is himself slain.” Some of the wounded later succumbed to their injuries. The incident occurred in Brunswick, Georgia. Believed to have snapped under the pressure of financial losses, a businessman opened fire in the street, blasting anyone he could see, including the police. An attorney named Eustace Butts procured a shotgun and another citizen, E.J. Minehan, a .32 revolver. Opening fire almost simultaneously, they both shot the gunman, who fell, eventually dying of buckshot wounds to the kidneys. The armed citizens had cut short the massacre and saved many lives; the dead madman’s pockets still held more live ammunition.

The lessons are clear. One fights fire with fire, and defeats force with force. Criminals make a point of striking in places where police are absent, and the police can’t repeal the laws of time and motion to get to the scene in time to stop

the murders. If someone collapses with a heart attack, a citizen first responder with an AED is more likely to save him than a long wait for a paramedic unit. In exactly the same way, an armed “good guy or gal” who is at ground zero of the attack can stop the carnage sooner. History often proves this to be true more often than not. **CH**

Carrying a gun in places of worship is becoming more commonplace. Remember Jeff Cooper’s Condition Yellow mindset: “Today could be the day I may have to defend myself.”



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BY D.K. PRIDGEN PHOTOS BY STEVE WOODS

All things being equal, the fit of a handgun is critical to how well a shooter can handle it. That's not to say some folks can't manhandle almost any firearm and make it work, but the people who can do this usually aren't us normal folks.



Ergonomics is a buzzword today, and most handgun builders have taken that to heart by providing interchangeable backstraps, enhanced checkering and texturing, undercut triggers allowing the hand to be closer to the bore line and constantly improving sights. Add to this the pressure of a burgeoning concealed-carry market that wants all of the preceding plus compactness, a light weight, snag-free edges, a minimal amount of effort to get the pistol up and running when things go bad, and, of course, a sweet trigger and you've designed everyone's "dream gun."

All of these requests are reasonable, even if handgun carriers have successfully defended themselves and others for quite a while with handguns possessing few to none of these traits. But none of us wants to enter a situation unprepared or not using the very best of equipment, when it is available.



CAP COMPACT

The FNS-40 Compact was designed with features that provide full-sized performance, including an ergonomic grip and a high capacity.

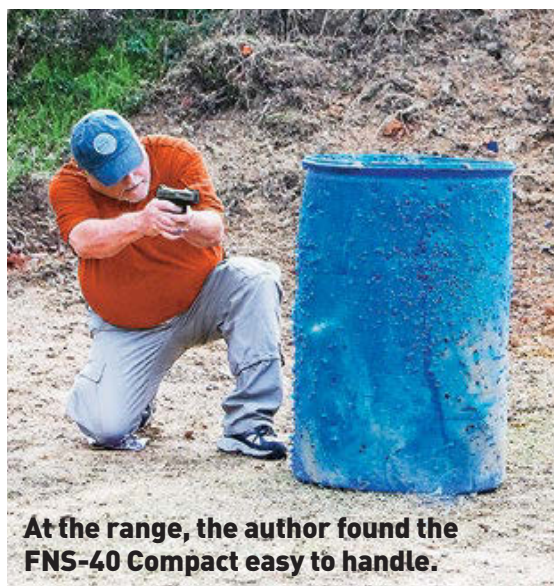
“Is the FNS-40 Compact pistol for everyone? It certainly could be. It’s an excellent-handling pistol with all the accuracy one could want...”

◎ SUPER STRIKER

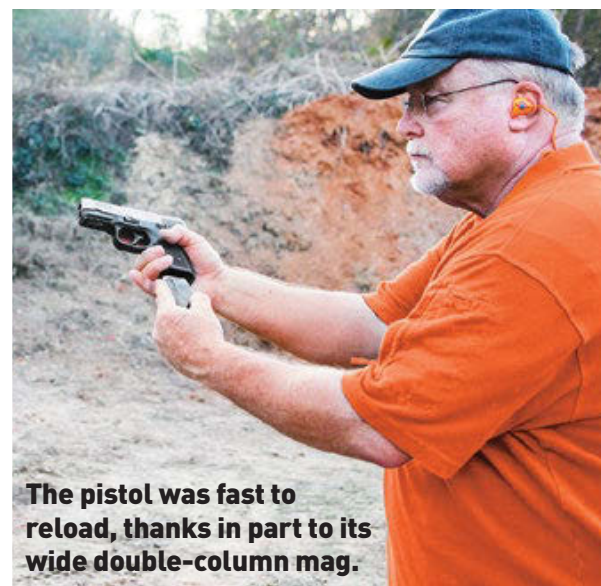
In the firearms industry there are quite a few companies with long and respected histories. There are only a few with longer histories than *Fabrique Nationale d'Herstal*, in the firearm business for the last 125 years and the parent company for today's FN America. The company has been producing firearms for the U.S. military since 1988 when it won a contract to build M16s, and continues to produce them and a number of other weapons for our military and those of other nations.

Handguns have been in the FN family since John Moses Browning took his idea for the M1899 .32 Auto to the company around the turn of the century, and handgun production has continued since then. In 2012 FN America introduced its first polymer-framed, striker-fired pistols, the FNS-9 and FNS-40. Recently, the company added a compact FNS to its lineup, the FNS-40 Compact, predicting concealed carriers would prefer a smaller version of its well-received full-size pistols.

Excellent in handling and performance, FNS pistols bring more than a pre-loaded striker mechanism and the attendant short, light, reproducible trigger pull to the table. They bring an outstanding package of ergonomics and features. Part of that is the truly ambidextrous nature of the FNS pistol family—manual safety lever, magazine release and low-profile slide release. Only the takedown lever is one-sided (left), which no one could consider a problem. Already trim slide levers are enclosed on three sides by integral fencing.



At the range, the author found the FNS-40 Compact easy to handle.



The pistol was fast to reload, thanks in part to its wide double-column mag.

“For concealed carry or home defense, it’s a reliable pistol capable of delivering hits right where they are needed!”

◎ HITS KEEP COMING

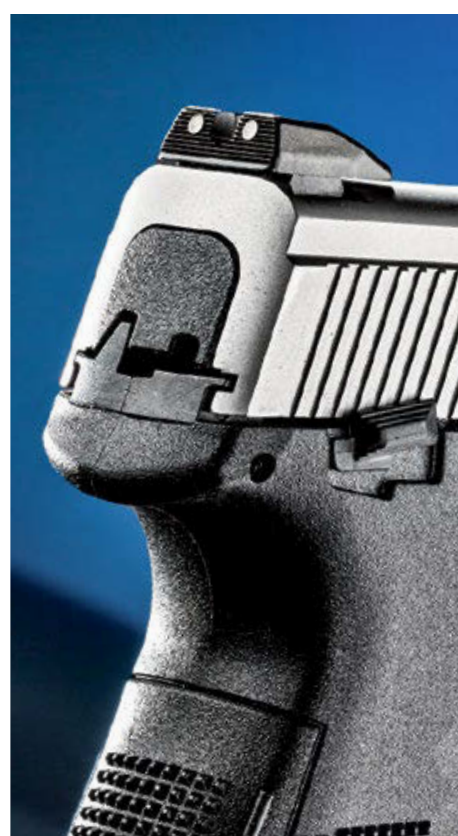
Other improvements include molded, highly aggressive checkered grips, front cocking serrations as well as trigger, firing pin and drop safeties. FNS polymer frames have replaceable steel slide rails, in the unlikely event you wear out the originals. The trim manual safety lever (thumb safety) is located in the traditional

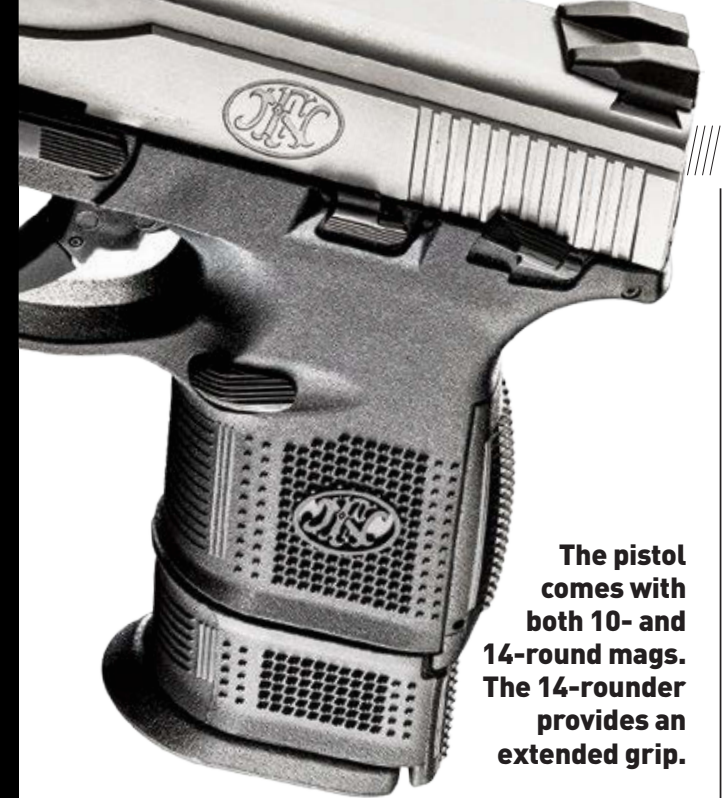
spot, with down as the “fire” position. Despite its smallish size, I had no problem activating or deactivating the lever. When engaged, the safety lever does not lock the slide, allowing the user to chamber a round while the lever is engaged.

FNS pistols wear a redesigned sight system incorporating a deep V-shaped cut in the bottom of the wide notch of the



FN loaded the FNS-40 Compact with several features, including front and rear slide serrations, a Picatinny accessory rail and three-dot sights.





The pistol comes with both 10- and 14-round mags. The 14-rounder provides an extended grip.

| SPECIFICATIONS | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| FNS-40 COMPACT | |
| Caliber | .40 S&W |
| Barrel | 3.57 inches |
| OA Length | 6.7 inches |
| Weight | 23 ounces |
| Grip | Polymer |
| Sights | Three-dot |
| Action | Striker-fired |
| Finish | Matte black frame, matte silver slide |
| Capacity | 10+1, 14+1 |
| MSRP | \$599 (\$649 for night sights) |

rear sight. The rear sight is also serrated to reduce glare. These dovetailed sights, in a three-white-dot configuration, are definitely quick into action.

A low bore axis (thanks to the undercut triggerguard), an effectively fashioned high beavertail and a grip angle mirroring the 1911 platform produce less perceived recoil and muzzle flip. Speaking of the grip angle, a pair of replaceable backstraps (flat and curved) is included with the FNS pistol.

The wide, beveled mouth on the magazine well makes slapping a magazine in under stress a snap. Those magazines have polished bodies and polymer bases, and in the Compact version have 10- and 14-round capacities, with a spacer on the body of the latter.

FNS pistols feature articulating triggers. I find their trigger pulls to be consistent and fairly smooth. The trigger has a reset that can actually be heard and felt. Shooting quickly is not a problem.

Matte black and matte silver slides are narrower at the top than the bottom and have been nicely dehorned. Beveling on the slide's front makes reholstering easier, something I am happy to report.



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FN's new FNS-40 Compact has all the excellent traits of its larger brother stuffed in a smaller package. These reductions amount to about 4.5 fewer ounces in weight, 0.5 inches in length, 0.5 inches in height, almost 0.5 inches of barrel and four rounds of capacity.

● RUNNING COMPACT

The wide, deep front cocking serrations were retained in the Compact, something many companies don't do when building a smaller version of a full-size gun. Also, like its older sibling, the FNS-40 Compact uses a steel recoil spring assembly.

The FNS-40 Compact felt great in the hands, balancing well. With the curved backstrap in place, the Compact had a little too much reach to the trigger for a perfect fit for my medium-sized hands. I swapped the flat backstrap and the FNS-40 Compact fit my hands perfectly, with just the right reach to the trigger for precision and rapid fire.

Before heading to the range, I checked the trigger pull weight. It was a nice 6.5 pounds, which felt lighter with a nice

reset working as advertised.

Recoil, regardless of ammo, was very controllable, unlike some smaller .40-caliber pistols I've tested. I credit the frame, which allows the pistol to sit lower in my hand, dropping the bore line, for this reduction. Through double-taps, precision shots and even magazine dumps the sights were back on the target quickly, and placed well.

The improved sights on the FNS-40 Compact worked as advertised, as well. They were quick to acquire and reacquire. Everything worked together to provide several good range sessions, handling every challenge I threw at the pistol with all of my usual drills.

I had no holster on hand for the FNS-40 Compact, but there are plenty of holsters available for the full-size pistols. I'd be surprised if there weren't a number of quality holsters available for the gun by the time you read this, and no doubt more waiting in the wings.

When I moved to the accuracy portion, I confess to already having some preconceived expectations because of the excellent performance until this point. I was not disappointed. I have frequently failed to get accuracy as good from .40 S&W pistols as from their 9mm counterparts. I did not have a FNS-9 Compact on hand to compare its accuracy with that of my test gun, but the results from the FNS-40 Compact were better than most .40s I've previously tested.

All groups fired were less than 1.65 inches, with the best groups hovering in the 1.5-inch neighborhood, all at 25 yards from the bench. These results put the FNS-40 Compact easily in the category of defensive or duty weapons. Precision shots, such as a head, should prove no problem for the FNS-40 Compact.

The articulating trigger has something to do with this accuracy, and with practical accuracy in a shooter's hands. I did not have to struggle shooting from the bench or during practical exercises with the FNS-40 Compact's nice trigger.



FN equips the pistol with a steel recoil guide rod and ambidextrous, snag-free controls.

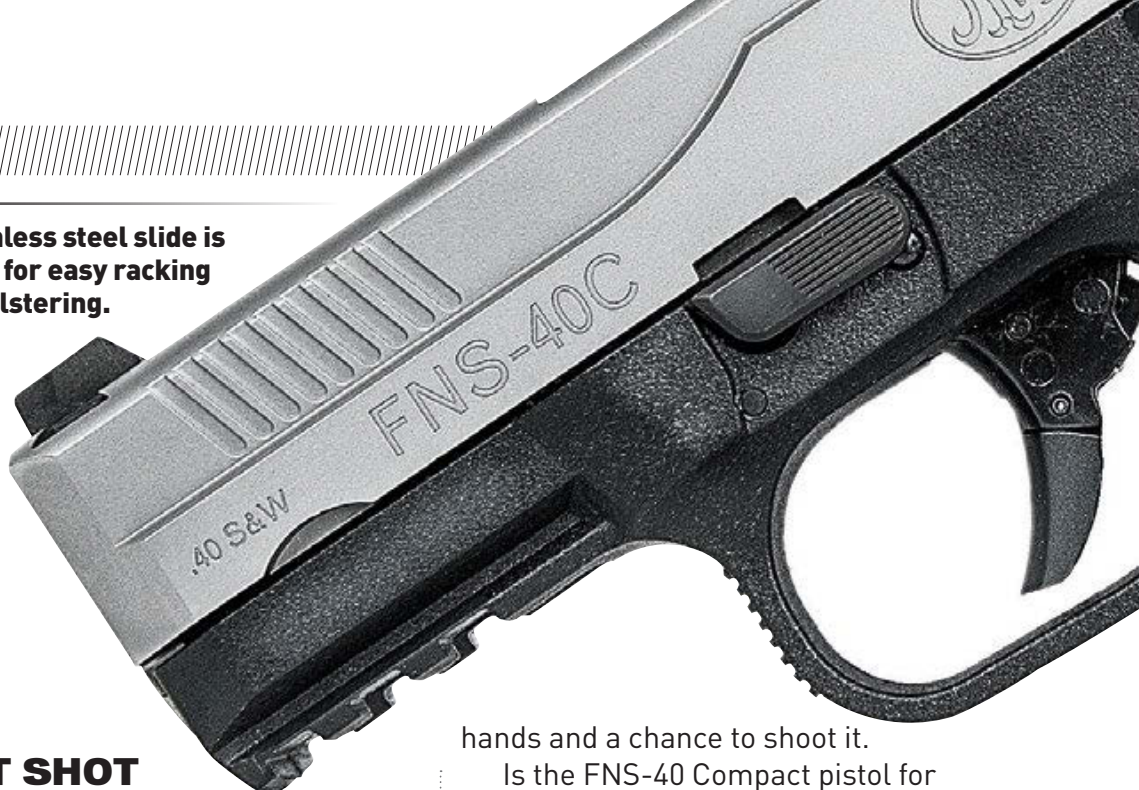


The FNS-40 Compact proved to be exceptionally accurate at 25 yards.

| PERFORMANCE | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| FNS-40 COMPACT .40 | | |
| LOAD | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
| Black Hills 140 Barnes TAC-XP +P | 1,048 | 1.53 |
| Federal 135 Hydra-Shok JHP | 1,152 | 1.59 |
| Hornady 165 FTX Critical Defense | 1,008 | 1.42 |

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

The stainless steel slide is sculpted for easy racking and reholstering.



LAST SHOT

As the gun smoke cleared from my second range trip, I had empty cases strewn all over the range, targets with an abundance of holes in them and hands in good condition despite the fact that I had been shooting a .40 S&W pistol—a lot. I was pleased with my results and pleased with the FNS-40 Compact's performance.

FN America may have been a little late to the polymer-framed/striker-fired party, but its FNS family of pistols is made up of some strong contenders. All most shooters need to become quite interested in the FNS family of pistols is to have one in their

hands and a chance to shoot it.

Is the FNS-40 Compact pistol for everyone? It certainly could be. It's an excellent-handling pistol with all the accuracy one could want, and should meet everyone's needs. For concealed carry or home defense, it's a reliable pistol capable of delivering hits right where they are needed! If a 9mm is more to your liking, take a look at the new FNS-9C that is available, too! For more information, visit fnhusa.com or call 703-288-3500. **CD**

Editor's Note: To see the author wring out the FNS-40 Compact, please visit personaldefenseworld.com.



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TAURUS CURVES AHEAD!

**Instinctive, distinctive
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BY D.K. PRIDGEN | **PHOTOS BY** STEVE WOODS

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, CONCEALED CARRY HAS HAD SEVERAL CONNOTATIONS—EFFECTIVELY CONCEALED AND “JUST COVERED,” AS WHEN A GUNFIGHTER SLAPPED on a duster or long tailcoat and called it good. There have been some innovative efforts to actually conceal handguns, mainly in the holster arena. Belt and inside-the-waistband (IWB) holsters add bulk and discomfort for some, while pocket carry is usually pretty slow and awkward on the draw, leading to many innovations and workarounds.

In the mid to late 1800s, gun carriers were known to stuff revolvers in their waistband, held in place by only a flipped-open loading gate. In fact, the Texas Rangers are credited with using string to make a loop inside their pants to hold handguns in place until needed, an improvement on carry methods where only waistband pressure secured the handgun in place.

With all of the discomfort, snagging and printing irritations, it seems strange that other

than de-horning or radiusing the heck out of the handgun, makers have not enthusiastically addressed the problem.

Taurus is billing its new U.S.-made Curve as the “gun you wear,” saying it is “engineered to fit the contours of your body.” The curved frame of the Taurus Curve fits body contours better. I did not ask Taurus exactly how they decided on the name “Curve,” but it definitely fits well. I suspect the curved frame was the impetus for the name, but one has only to pick a Curve up to see there are no angles or sharp edges on this pistol. It’s a pistol built with flowing lines curving to meet one another.

● **FAST ON TARGET**

The Taurus Curve is the culmination of the company’s efforts to correct many common concealed-carry difficulties, including size, weight and printing potential. As a solution, the Taurus Curve’s slide is only 1.18 inches wide, it weighs only 10.2 ounces and all sharp edges on the pistol have been de-horned so any printing will look innocuous.



The aptly named Taurus Curve, designed specifically to hug a user’s hip for IWB carry, comes with a fast-targeting laser and light for close-quarters uses.

“The Curve was designed for concealed carriers looking for a truly compact pistol...for all-day, everyday carry.”

TAURUS CUR



Easy to conceal, easy to draw and quick on target, the Taurus Curve is aimed at concealed carriers looking for something small but comfortable to carry.

“Again, there are no snag points with the edges radiused, the design has fluid curves everywhere...”

All too often, concealed carriers try to minimize their pistol's bulk by choosing .22 LR- or .25 ACP-chambered pistols. The Curve is chambered in .380 ACP, the caliber many feel is the minimum for an effective defensive caliber. A concealed-carry handgun should be quick into action, and the Curve is that. Again, there are no snag points with the edges radiused, the design has fluid curves everywhere (a small portion of the muzzle

is swept back to match the curves) and there are no sights on the slide.

Once the Curve is free of the waistband, holster or pocket, there are two choices for aiming. Don't just point and fire—utilize the pistol's Bore-Sight System on the rear of the slide (coinciding with the barrel bore) by centering its white cross on the assailant's torso, or you can activate the frame-mounted LaserLyte white light/red laser, which is

activated by pressing a switch fitted flush into the pistol's frame.

Other potential snag points, including external safeties, slide releases and thumb magazine releases, are all missing on the gun. Taurus is serious about making the Curve concealed-carry friendly; any place you look you'll find smooth surfaces.

As long as you carry the Curve on your belt, the only reason you would need a holster is personal preference. The Curve arrives with a reversible belt clip that will certainly hold it in place. As an added safety measure, even though a stiff 6.25-pound, double-action-only (DAO) trigger is used on the gun, Taurus includes a polymer trigger protector with a paracord lanyard attached. Slip your belt through the paracord loop and the trigger protector will be yanked off the Curve during the draw.

The Curve can be carried solely using the trigger protector as a holster, though I'm not sure just how the trigger protector could be incorporated into pocket carry without finding a way to secure the lanyard in the pocket.

Using the belt clip and trigger protector, or just the trigger protector for belt carry, results in the trigger protector in the same condition after drawing—dangling from the paracord lanyard and needing to be reinstalled. Reinstallation is the perfect opportunity to accidentally sweep your support hand. Attach the trigger protector with care, snapping it up from the bottom of the frame. Don't



Taurus equips the Curve with a belt clip mounted on the right side as well as a trigger “protector” that prevents accidental discharges.

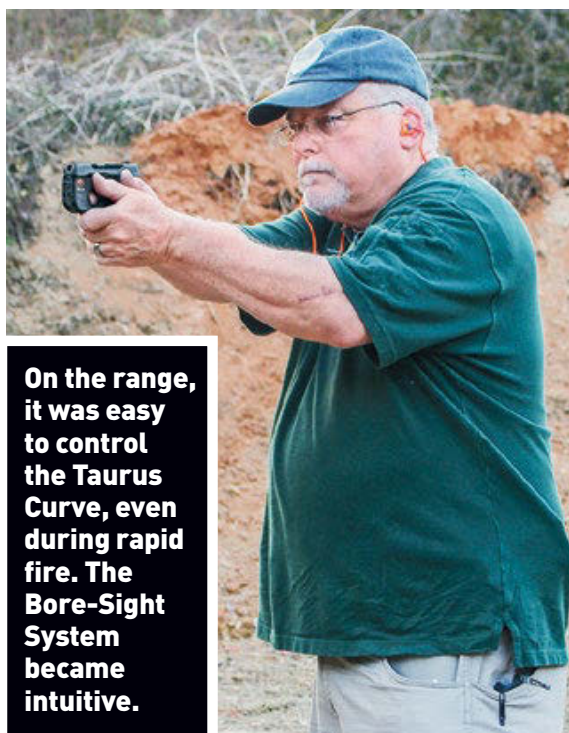


The top of the slide is rounded in keeping with the Taurus Curve's snag-free design. Also note the rounded muzzle cut.

SPECIFICATIONS

TAURUS CURVE

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Caliber | .380 ACP |
| Barrel | 2.5 inches |
| OA Length | 5.18 inches |
| Weight | 10.2 ounces |
| Grip | Polymer |
| Sights | LaserLyte laser |
| Action | DAO |
| Finish | Matte black |
| Capacity | 6+1 |
| MSRP | \$392 |



On the range, it was easy to control the Taurus Curve, even during rapid fire. The Bore-Sight System became intuitive.

force it on from any other direction.

On every magazine, plastic clips, each flush with the frame, extend upward from the baseplate into the frame. The left one is pressed inward to remove magazines, rather than the traditional thumb or finger magazine-release method. I envision the Curve carried in a pocket in an appropriate holster. Even with a holster in the

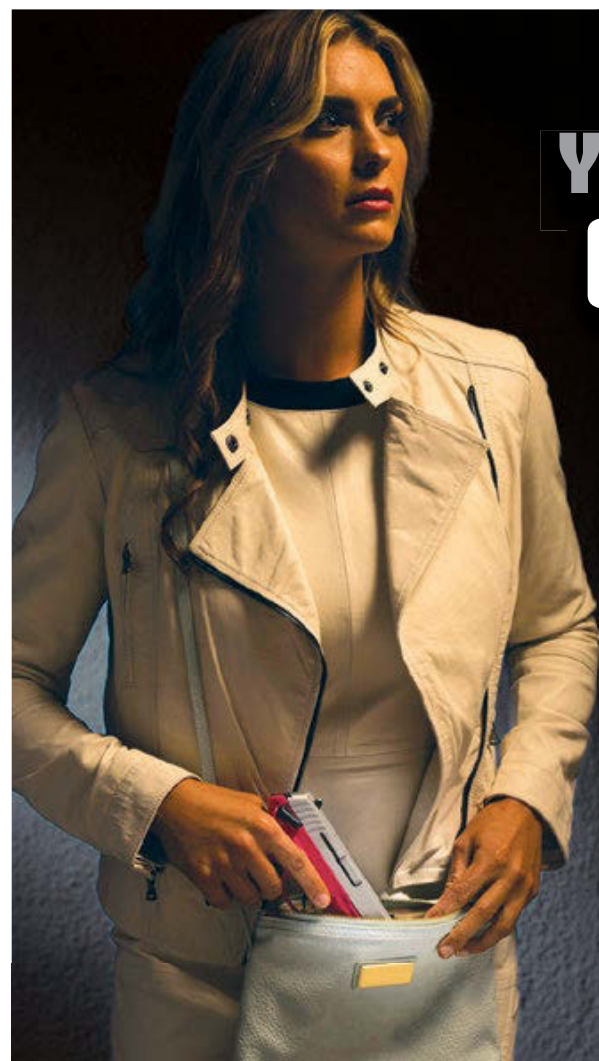
pocket, thumb-release magazines have been known to pop free from a pistol. But that won't happen with the Curve.

TEST DRIVE

As mentioned, Taurus did a lot of thinking about the design of the Curve, which in times past would have been called a "belly gun." Three traits should make the Curve especially attractive to users with less upper body strength. The gun's locked-breech design should reduce felt recoil as well as reduce the recoil spring weight needed to operate the gun, and its snakeskin cocking serrations on the slide provide a sure gripping surface. Translation: You get less recoil and it's easier to rack the slide.

Everything about the Curve made me want to spend some time with it at the range. I threw a couple of boxes of full metal jacket (FMJ) ammunition in a bag, along with a few more of my test ammunition, and away we went.

Accuracy testing wasn't as big of a draw as putting the Curve through its paces doing what the Curve does best—handling bad-breath-distance confrontations. I put quite a few rounds downrange from a variety of positions. I was pleased



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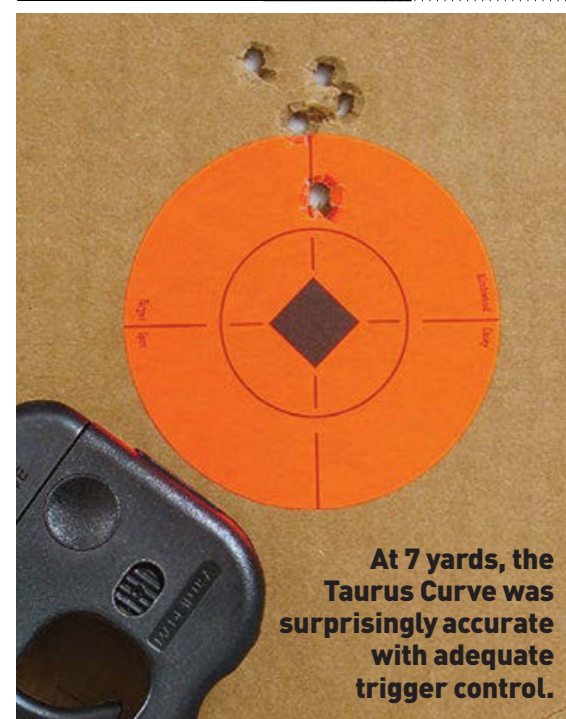
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TAURUS CURVE



| PERFORMANCE | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| TAURUS CURVE .380 ACP | | |
| LOAD | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
| CorBon 80 DPX | 1,044 | 1.11 |
| Hornady Critical Defense 90 FTX | 860 | 1.05 |
| Winchester 95 JHP PDX | 866 | 1.00 |

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the recoil was as light as anticipated, and the pistol handled well. I was equally impressed by the accuracy the Curve displayed—shots fired on the move (re-treating or laterally) at “too close” targets clustered in the 0-zone of an IDPA target at distances of 5 to 7 yards.

Headshots (preferred, but extremely difficult on moving heads) while standing still succeeded over 75 percent of the time, but that should improve with more time with the heavy trigger. It’s not something I’d want to try in a real situation, at least not without lots more work. But if I needed to try it, I think the Curve could probably do its part.

With my handling familiarization out of the way, I settled down for the accuracy portion of my testing. Surprised does not begin to describe me after the smoke cleared and I saw a tiny group 7 yards away. Time after time, the Curve produced extremely small groups. I had to work the trigger with care, but the Taurus curve has such accuracy in it. Taurus kept saying the Curve was designed with distances of 7 yards and under in mind, and I guess they were right!

My time at the range brought a couple of things to light. Using the belt clip on the Curve puts the pistol too low for me to draw smoothly or quickly. It does, how-

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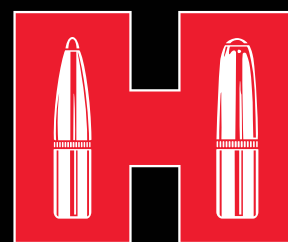
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TAURUS CURVE



Taurus offers the Curve with a lanyard-equipped trigger protector that enhances its safety for carry.

ever, locate the Curve perfectly for much more inconspicuous carrying, where you could hopefully get a grip on the pistol surreptitiously. However, using the Taurus trigger protector to simulate one of the mentioned holsters worked very well!

During all of this testing I had two failures to feed—both on the third shot, both from the same magazine, but with different ammunition for each. For a carry pistol, buying as many magazines as possible only makes sense, and it will provide an easy solution for problems in the feed system.

● NEXT-GEN DESIGN

The Taurus Curve was designed for concealed carriers looking for a truly compact pistol in .380 ACP for all-day, everyday carry. The belt clip and laser/light sighting system are unexpected but very appreciated extras, and I found myself liking the Bore-Sight System after some practice on the range. The trigger protector and loaded-chamber indicator are also both good ideas.

For anyone in the market for a compact, accurate, snag-proof pistol, the Taurus Curve would be an ideal choice. After all, that's what the Taurus team was designing when they started work on the Curve—and that's what they delivered! For more information, visit taurususa.com or call 800-327-3776. **CH**

Editor's Note: For live-fire shooting of Taurus' new Curve, check out the author's video at personaldefenseworld.com.

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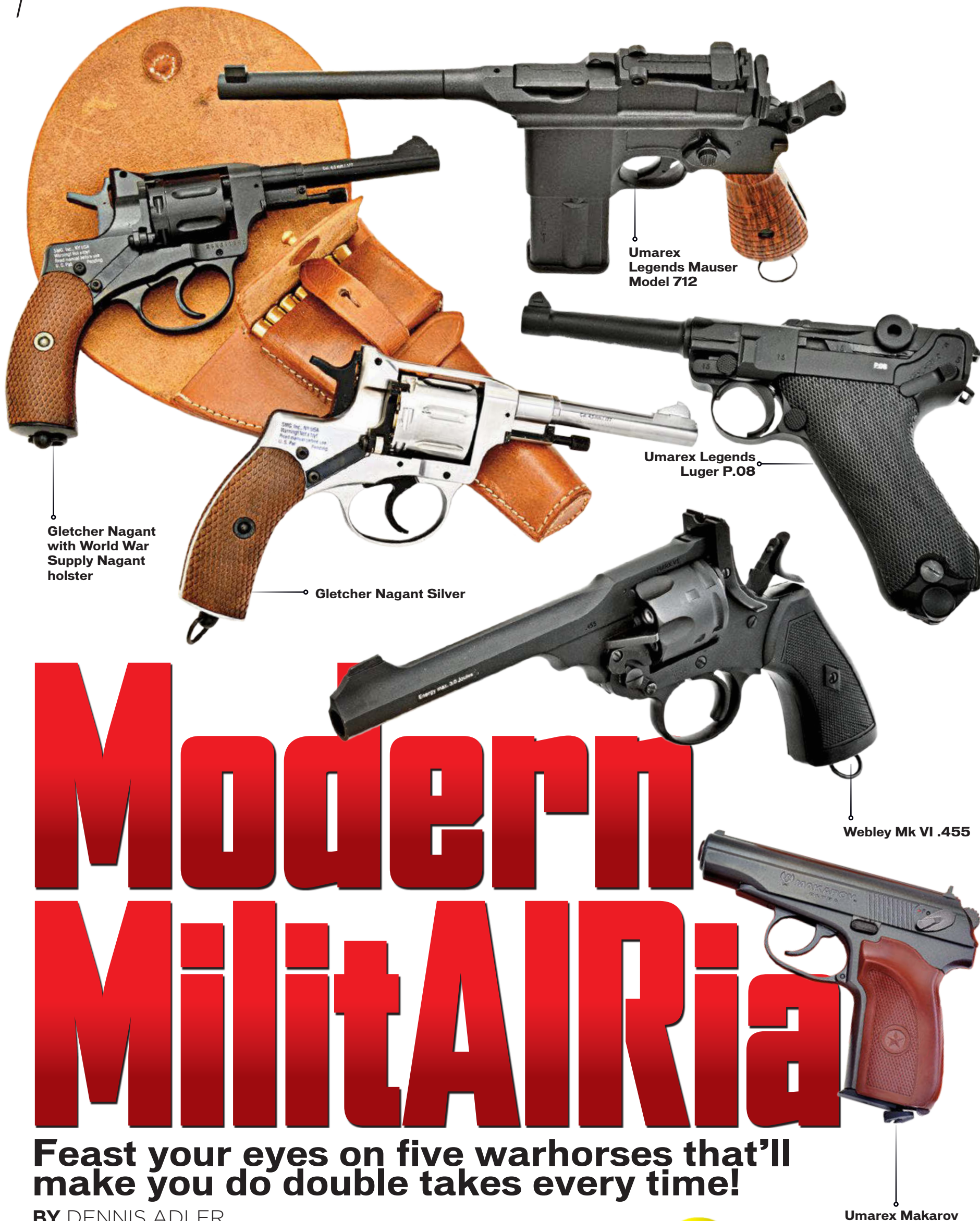


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Modern Militaria

Feast your eyes on five warhorses that'll make you do double takes every time!

BY DENNIS ADLER



THERE IS AN ALMOST INEXPLICABLE ATTRACTION TO EARLY MILITARY REVOLVERS AND SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS THAT HAS NOT DIMINISHED WITH THE PASSING OF YEARS. ASIDE FROM THE COLT MODEL 1911,

most are of foreign origin and you can count them on one hand: the Mauser C96 Broomhandle, the British Empire's venerated .455-caliber Webley Mk VI revolver, the Belgian Nagant seven-shot revolver carried by Russian soldiers in two World Wars, and lest we forget one of Germany's most famous military sidearms, the Luger P.08 Parabellum. These, along with early post-war military handguns like the popular Russian Makarov semi-auto, have been faithfully recreated as high-quality .177-caliber air pistols.

In recreating these historic handguns as air pistols, manufacturers like Umarex, which has an exclusive Legends line that includes the Mauser M712 select-fire C96 Broomhandle, the Luger P.08 and the Makarov semi-auto, eschew the use of plastics in manufacturing these timeless pistols by using all metal components to provide durability and accurate styling as well as the proper weight and methods of operation. How authentic are they? The Mauser C96 and Webley Mk VI models pictured are shown alongside the real guns, and it takes a second look to tell one from the other!

Military Heritage

Though the Webley Mk VI and Mauser C96 are as different as night and day, these two designs, which originated from 19th-century Great Britain and Germany, are recreated with such exacting detail that accessories made for the original guns will fit the air pistols. The Webley Mk VI is manufactured by Webley & Scott, a company steeped in its own storied air pistol history dating back to the early 20th century.

The original Webley Mk VI (which we learned is going to be produced again!) self-extracting revolver became one of the most distinguished British handguns used throughout WWI and WWII. The design was first adopted by the British military in 1887 as the Webley Mk I. The pistol's design evolved over a period of nearly 30 years, culminating with the Mk VI variation produced from 1915 to 1923 and kept in service until 1947. The smaller .38-caliber Webley Mk IV remained in service until 1963. The Mk VI featured a square-butt grip with a lanyard ring, and military models had a dull finish that was less reflective than the blued finish previ-

ously seen on Webley & Scott military sidearms. There were also commercially produced models for the civilian and law enforcement markets.

Among the characteristic features of the Webley design is the flat-sided, 6-inch barrel, a large hammer spur, a copious triggerguard and a large, crescent-shaped, double-action/single-action (DA/SA) trigger. It was a man-sized handgun overbuilt to endure, and while some might consider its appearance less than attractive, it has an unmistakable look, especially with the gun's massive "stirrup latch." Hard to miss on the reload, the large release lever on the left side of the frame is pushed down to pivot and unlatch a locking bar over the back of the topstrap, thus freeing the barrel assembly to be tilted downward.

Like the old Smith & Wesson top-break revolvers, opening the Webley activates an automatic ejector (working off an external cam lever on the left side of the frame) that drives the cylinder arbor and extractor upward, simultaneously expelling all six spent shell cases. This

was still a very efficient design despite the advent of the swing-out cylinder and the hand ejector introduced by Colt and Smith & Wesson in the late 19th century. Additionally, the triangular-shaped cylinder retaining cam on either side of the Webley frame had the added purpose of spreading open the holster pouch to prevent the cylinder from catching on the edges when reholstering.

All of these detailed features are accurately reproduced from original blueprints in the Webley Mk VI air pistol with the exception of completely ejecting the unique .455-caliber BB cartridges, which can be reloaded and used over. You don't want to go hunting for them on the ground! Weighing in at 38.4 ounces and measuring an exact 11.25 inches in length and 5.75 inches in height, the Mk VI air pistol is as close to the original Webley revolver as possible. The gun even comes with a copy of the 1937 Small Arms Training manual for the Webley .455 pistol. With an MSRP of \$250, the Webley is at the high end of the price range for BB pistols but worth every cent.



REAL OR MEM-AIR-EX?

Webley has its own history with air guns and the new Mk VI air pistol (bottom) is an accurate BB-cartridge-firing copy of the maker's original Mk VI (top), which was produced from 1915 to 1923. World War Supply made the holster shown and John Bianchi crafted the Sam Browne belt.

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Mauser C96

The Umarex Legends Mauser C96 select-fire air pistol is perhaps the most remarkable and desirable "BB gun" since the "Official Red Ryder, carbine action, 200-shot, range-model air rifle." The Mauser C96 has a history as old as the Webley, having been another invention of the late 19th century. Among the very first semi-automatic pistols developed,



Caught (below) with the bolt in motion, cocking the hammer, and a BB exiting the muzzle, the Umarex C96 can fire in either semi- or full-auto.



the C96 was patented on December 11, 1895, by *Waffenfabrik Mauser*. The C96 used a locked-breech design with a rectangular bolt housed inside the square section of the barrel extension. Among many unprecedented features, the C96 introduced a device to keep the bolt locked back after the last shot had been fired, thus indicating an empty magazine and automatically preparing the gun for quick reloading. Common today, this was the first time that the hold-open feature was incorporated into a self-loader.

With a magazine built integral with the frame, the guns were available in six-, 10- and 20-round capacities. The standard barrel length was 5.5 inches and the guns were fitted with distinctive



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A LEGEND IS BORN
Umarex has duplicated the Mauser C96 in exacting detail. The gun at top is an original circa-1930 Broomhandle with its wooden shoulder stock holster. The 712 is an accurate copy of the circa-1932 select-fire Mauser. The removable box magazines hold the CO₂ capsule and 18 steel BBs.

“...shown alongside the real guns... it takes a second look to tell one from the other!”

hardwood grips. A manual safety on the left-rear of the frame was actuated by pushing the lever upward into a notch that either locked the hammer so that it could not be cocked, or, if cocked, it blocked the hammer so that the gun could not be discharged until the safety lever was lowered—the original “cocked and locked.” There was also a wooden shoulder stock with a steel yoke that mounted into a channel in the gripstrap. This turned the Mauser into a modest carbine pistol, and the hollow shoulder stock also doubled as a holster worn in a leather shoulder harness.

As the Mauser design evolved over three decades, there were numerous improvements and variations including the Model 712 (also known as the Model 1932 or *Schnellfeuer*), which used a removable box magazine and could be fired in either semi- for full-auto. The interchangeable magazines carried 20 rounds. Considered among the most desirable of Broomhandle designs, the

M712 has been faithfully reproduced by Umarex right down to the select-fire control switch on the left side of the frame, the elevation-adjustable rear sight and the thumb safety operation. The gun is so exact in detail and dimensions that all original Mauser accessories fit the blowback-action BB gun, including the wooden shoulder stock holster.

Airing Them Out

For the shooting evaluation of the Mauser C96 and Webley Mk VI, the precision of these high-end air pistols was put to the test with Hornady Black Diamond anodized .177-caliber steel BBs. The optimum range for a blowback-action air pistol or BB revolver is about 20 feet.

The Webley, limited to six rounds, was fired in a series of six tests, with a best six-round group of 1.75 inches. The Mauser clustered its best 10 shots into 2.25 inches. Fired on full-auto, the accuracy tended to open up considerably, but 18 rounds disappeared in a couple of seconds. At that point you really don't care how many are in the bullseye, you just want to load another magazine and listen to that blowback action sing! Priced at \$149, the select-fire Umarex Legends C96 is one air pistol you just have to get! Additional magazines for the Mauser C96 reproduction sell for \$50. For more information, visit webleymkvi.com or umarexusa.com.

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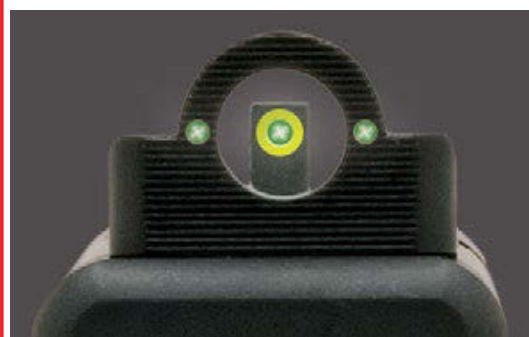
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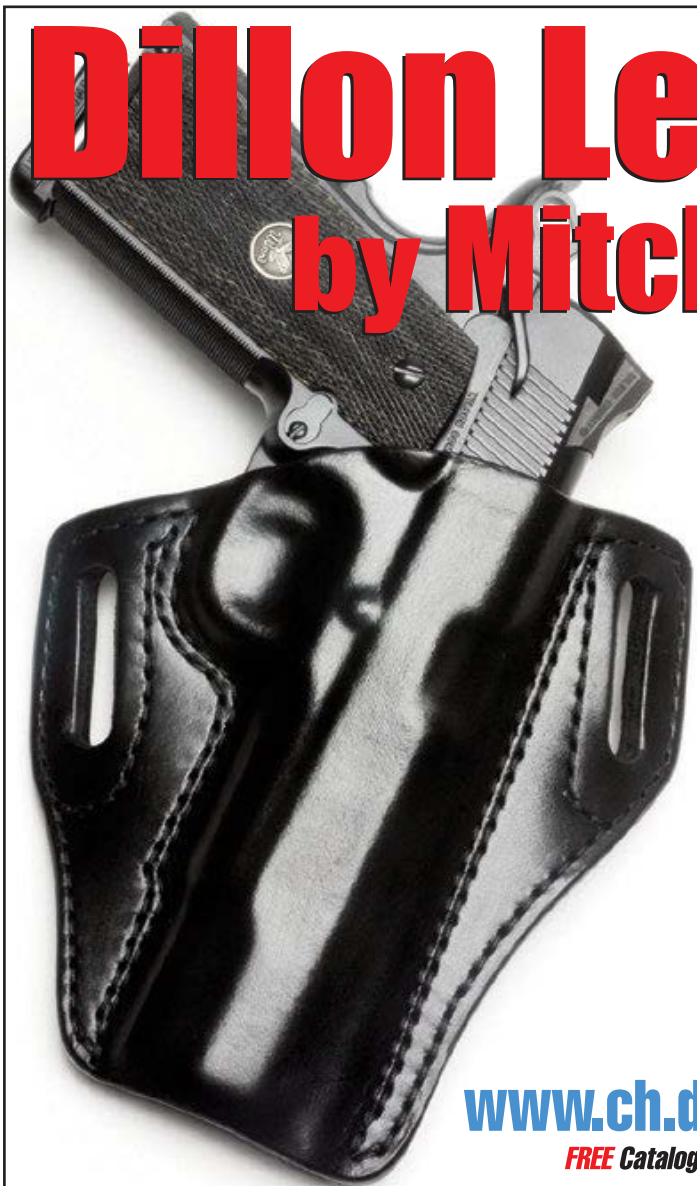
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Developed in Belgium in 1895, the Nagant revolver was one of the most advanced designs of its time. Designed by Leon and Emile Nagant and manufactured at their armory in Liege, Belgium, the brothers were already famous for the 1891 Mosin-Nagant rifle. Adopted as the standard-issue handgun for the Russian Army, the seven-shot, 7.62mm Nagant was also carried by Russian police and the KGB. Gletcher's all-metal, .177-caliber air pistol replica accurately reproduces the original pistol's features and, like the Webley revolver, uses reloadable brass BB cartridges, making this a true DA/SA revolver. The MSRP is \$180. (gletcherguns.com; 877-969-0909)



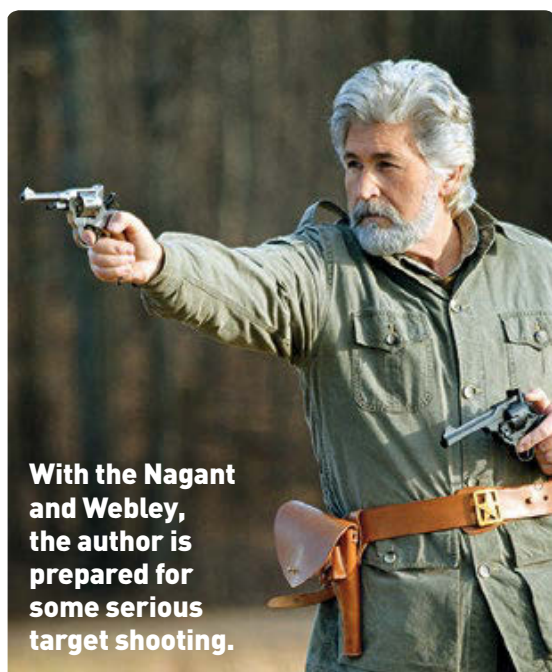
UMAREX LUGER P.08

Striving for authenticity once again, the Umarex Legends Luger P.08 uses a Luger-style magazine that contains both

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With the Nagant and Webley, the author is prepared for some serious target shooting.

the 12-gram CO₂ capsule and a charge of 21 steel BBs, allowing for additional magazines to be carried for quick and authentic reloads. The Luger operates exactly like the original with a blowback toggle action. The pistol's all-metal construction provides the weight (32 ounces) and heft of a real P.08 semi-auto. Developed in 1898 and put into production in 1900, the P.08 is another of the earliest semi-auto designs that saw use in both WWI and WWII. It is also one of the most recognized handguns in the world. The Umarex reproduction does Georg Luger proud. The MSRP is just \$119. (umarexusa.com)



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By combining the CO₂ canister and BB magazine into one piece, Umarex's Makarov provides authentic loading and the classic lines of the Russian original, complete with plastic grips emblazoned with a Russian star. The air pistol also delivers the weight (24 ounces) and balance of the real 9x18mm pistol designed by Nikolai Makarov in 1951. Intended to replace the aging Takarev TT-33, the pistol was essentially a Russian version of the Walther PP. The Makarov remained in use by the Soviet military and police for over half a century and is still popular throughout the world. The all-metal, blowback-action BB pistol holds 16 BBs. The MSRP is \$91. (umarexusa.com) 

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Nearly a half-pound lighter than its older brother, this new CCW .45 is ready to ride along 24/7.

BY DAVID BAHDE



LEAD PHOTOS COURTESY RUGER

1911



EVERY TIME SOMEONE TELLS ME THE “1911 IS DEAD” IT RESULTS IN A CHUCKLE, IF NOT A LOUD LAUGH. NOTHING COULD BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH, quite to the consternation of those “experts” claiming that it is an antiquated design fading into obscurity. Given people’s inability to focus longer than a couple nanoseconds these days, this is sort of expected. When coupled with a world inundated with hit-and-run marketing and social media mythology, the 1911’s staying power is a testament to its simple, reliable design.

Denigrated as too costly or too com-

plicated for the average shooter, the polymer revolution and those leading it constantly criticize the venerable 1911 pistol. For four decades I have been hearing of the 1911’s demise, but it seems the average pistol buyer just does not agree. As each anti-1911 “guru” fades into obscurity, the 1911 just keeps on growing in popularity and its demise seems a bit overstated.

Polymer pistols are certainly popular; they are great weapons with excellent features. Many long-time 1911 users

Ruger’s new SR1911 Lightweight Commander is stylish, powerful and easy to carry. It comes with several enhancements, including hardwood grips.



The Ruger SR1911 Lightweight Commander has an anodized aluminum frame that contrasts with the slide and holds 7+1 rounds of .45 ACP ammo.

have them, myself included. There is a certain utilitarian value to a well-built polymer pistol, especially one with a low base price. But even that is changing, with many starting at \$600 or more, and reaching very close to the \$800 range. It has closed that "entry level" gap often touted as an advantage. Many solidly built 1911 pistols now come in at the same price point, with some imports at even less, making them accessible to any pistol buyer. Many new pistol users are turning to the 1911, with no slow down in

sight. They remain easy to carry, easy to shoot, inherently accurate and just plain cool looking!

● CARRY-READY .45

Many of the economy 1911 pistols on the market are imports, making Ruger an excellent choice for a completely U.S.-built pistol that's priced favorably. Ruger's dedication to solid build quality, excellent customer service and fair pricing has made the company incredibly popular. Built using state-of-the-art CNC

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This modest company is a labor of love for its founder, R.E. Smith and even welds his name. Founded in 2009, RESCO Instruments aspired to build a sleek, simple and rugged timepiece. This vision was realized with the production of the Gen1 "Patriot" model, which now graces the wrists of over 100 active duty US Navy SEALs including Resco's founder, R.E. Smith who is still in active service as a US Navy SEAL.

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To all those who have gone downrange, we salute you!



machining with features seen on pistols twice the price, Ruger's 1911 designs are acquitting themselves well in the hands of thousands of shooters.

Since its introduction, the SR1911 Commander has sat in many a professional's holster. Concealed carriers are grabbing them up as fast as they can be

“Built using state-of-the-art CNC machining with features seen on pistols twice the price, Ruger's 1911 designs are acquitting themselves well in the hands of thousands of shooters.”

built. It was only a matter of time until a lightweight version came out, and now the SR1911 Lightweight Commander pistol is finally here.

Ruger's Lightweight Commander starts with a lightweight anodized aluminum frame that uses a polished titanium feed ramp. Precision CNC machining provides for excellent slide-to-frame fit as well as solid construction. Serrations on the frontstrap and a checkered metal mainspring housing provide for a solid hold. Series 70 internals keep the aluminum trigger crisp. An oversized beavertail ensures positive function. An integral plunger (not staked) keeps the thumb safety in place, crisp and consistent. Magazines are released using a slightly oversized release and the slide stop is serrated. Thin hardwood grips fit small hands and keep the pistol solid in the user's grip.

The pistol's forged stainless steel slide is brushed to a low-glare finish. Featuring Novak dovetails, it includes a white-dot front and low-cut rear sights. Cutting the stainless steel barrel and bushing from the same stock keeps things tight. Its true Commander length



The magazine well is beveled for smooth, fumble-free reloads.

SPECIFICATIONS

RUGER SR1911 LIGHTWEIGHT COMMANDER

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Caliber | .45 ACP |
| Barrel | 4.25 inches |
| OA Length | 7.75 inches |
| Weight | 29.3 ounces |
| Grips | Hardwood |
| Sights | Adjustable three-dot |
| Action: | SA |
| Finish | Stainless slide, anodized frame |
| Capacity | 7+1 |
| MSRP | \$899 |



The author added VZ Elite Tactical Carry grips to suit his larger hands.

The 4.25-inch barrel is held tightly within the Commander-length slide thanks to a brushed stainless steel bushing.



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RUGER SR1911 LIGHTWEIGHT COMMANDER

(4.25 inches) keeps things reliable. Proper fitting and a standard guide rod allow for disassembly without tools. The oversized ejection port facilitates positive and consistent ejection. Rear slide serrations make loading easy and positive under adverse conditions. The swaged link pin, skeletonized lightweight hammer and titanium firing pin also ensure fast cycling. Two stainless steel magazines are provided, along with a bushing wrench and soft case.

RANGE REPORT

Testing was completed with only one change to the pistol: grip panels. Slim line grips are great, very popular and work for many shooters, just not me. My large hands make them uncomfortable, and don't allow for a complete grip on the pistol. Some form of VZ grips adorn every 1911 I've carried with any consistency, so a set of the company's Elite Tactical Carry grips were moved over from one of my Delta Elites. These grips provide moderate texture in just the right places, lessening any snagging risk on clothing. VZ's Super Scoop cut allows for magazine changes with no need to alter my grip. They not only ensure a fair test of the



The left-side-mounted thumb safety is low profile. Note the serrations.

pistol, but they provide a really nice look on the black frame.

My first concern with any 1911 designed for concealed carry is its ability to function with modern self-defense ammunition. For many, this will be their only pistol, and it needs to work with factory ammunition, preferably right out of the box. Removing the pistol from the box, it was disassembled, inspected and cleaned. Everything looked good, so its first test was using Winchester 230-grain

Bonded. Three Wilson Combat Elite eight-round magazines were loaded and used for this entire test. These magazines have proven reliable in every pistol I've tested, making them a solid choice to test the pistol's reliability.

A "bill drill" consisting of emptying the magazine as fast as possible followed by a reload starts the process. Singles, doubles and triples are next, with the last magazine being used for a second rapid-fire string. Any malfunction during this drill is unacceptable to me in a carry pistol and the Ruger passed with flying colors. Six different loads were tested from five different manufactures, ranging from 165-grain +P to 230-grain bonded, and all functioned flawlessly. Pistols costing almost three times as much fail this test regularly. Ruger's reputation for solid reliability was clearly demonstrated.

As a carry pistol, a smooth draw from an inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster is mandatory. While the Ruger is not heavily melted, sharp edges are minimal. Given that my everyday carry is a 1911 in a Milt Sparks Nexus, it was a simple matter of swapping pistols. Starting with some dry fire, the Ruger presented smoothly. The safety is crisp, although a little light for

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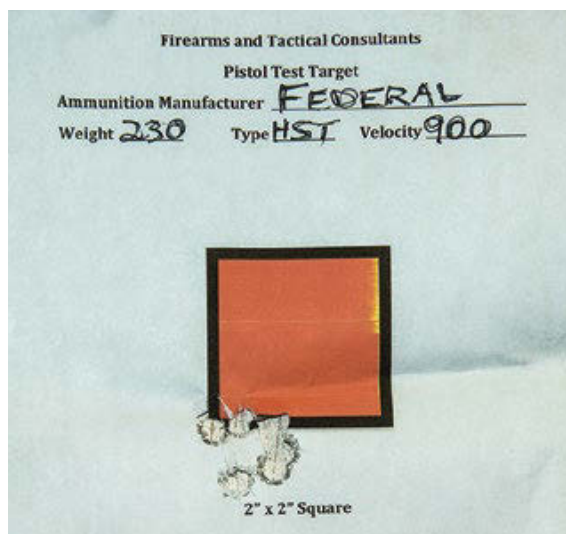


PERFORMANCE

RUGER SR1911 LIGHTWEIGHT COMMANDER .45 ACP

| LOAD | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Federal 230 HST Tactical | 890 | 1.25 |
| Glaser 165 +P Powerball | 1,150 | 1.39 |
| Sig Sauer 200 Elite Performance | 900 | 1.40 |
| Speer 200 +P Gold Dot | 1,025 | 1.42 |
| Speer 230 Gold Dot | 910 | 1.37 |
| Winchester 230 Bonded | 900 | 1.43 |

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

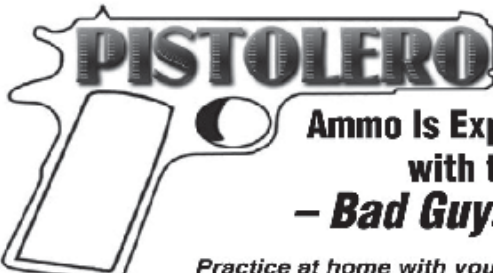


The Ruger's accuracy was stellar, surpassing that of pistols twice the price.

me, but that can be a personal preference. Moving back to the holster, it inserted without any catching or need to maneuver it around. Gripping was consistent, while the frontstrap and upswept beavertail provided a pretty high grip. Moving to live-fire drills, it was easy to get on target with a solid grip. Tested while I wore a sweatshirt (my usual attire) and a jacket, the Ruger acquitted itself nicely.

My pistols all use aggressive checkering with grips to match, so my expectation was that this pistol would move around quite a bit. To my surprise, it stayed put even during rapid-fire strings while using self-defense ammunition. Using the practice loads it was downright solid. The VZ grips certainly help, but it was rock-solid both barehanded and while using gloves.

During testing, the sights remained in place and were plenty fast to target. Using a standard dovetail is huge for me since my preferred sighting system is a bit different. If this pistol sticks around, it will get a Trijicon HD front and 10-8 Performance rear, but Ruger has thankfully made that a very simple process.



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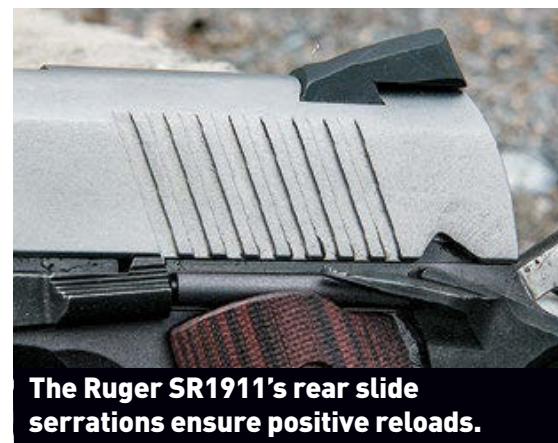
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RUGER SR1911 LW .45




The Ruger SR1911's rear slide serrations ensure positive reloads.

Most of the carry ammunition was point of aim/point of impact from 15 to 18 yards. Holding a tad high at 25 yards put most on the 6-inch steel with regularity.

Accuracy was excellent—as good as it gets short of a hand-built masterpiece. Recent testing of a couple high-dollar customs yielded similar results. My best group measured 1.25 inches using Federal's 230-grain HST at 25 yards from a rest. It was cold, raining and anything but group-shooting weather. Short of a Ransom rest, I cannot shoot a pistol much more accurately. Although it's a concealed-carry pistol that is about three times as accurate as it really needs to be, I'd say small targets at 25 yards would be at significant risk.

FINAL SHOTS

Short of personal preferences born from decades of carrying a 1911, there is really nothing to dislike about this pistol. New shooters will need to change little, or nothing, for dedicated concealed-carry or self-defense use with it. It worked perfectly out of the box with several self-defense rounds. Accuracy was excellent, and the Series 70 (no firing-pin safety) system is proven and capable of tuning. The trigger was typical of factory pistols—pretty crisp, a bit of creep and just a little overtravel.

This is an excellent pistol that's perfect for first-time users or for those wanting a solid entry-level 1911 for carry. Capable of customizing as needed, it fits just about any need. As with all Rugers, the street price is quite a bit less than its \$899 retail, putting it in the hands of just about anyone purchasing a quality carry pistol. Add to that Ruger's warranty and the fact that it is built (and not just assembled) in the U.S. and it has a broad appeal. Whether you are looking at your first pistol, your first 1911 or just want a great .45 ACP pistol, then give this one a really close look. For more information, visit ruger.com. 

Editor's Note: Check out a video of the author wringing out the latest Ruger SR1911 at personaldefenseworld.com.



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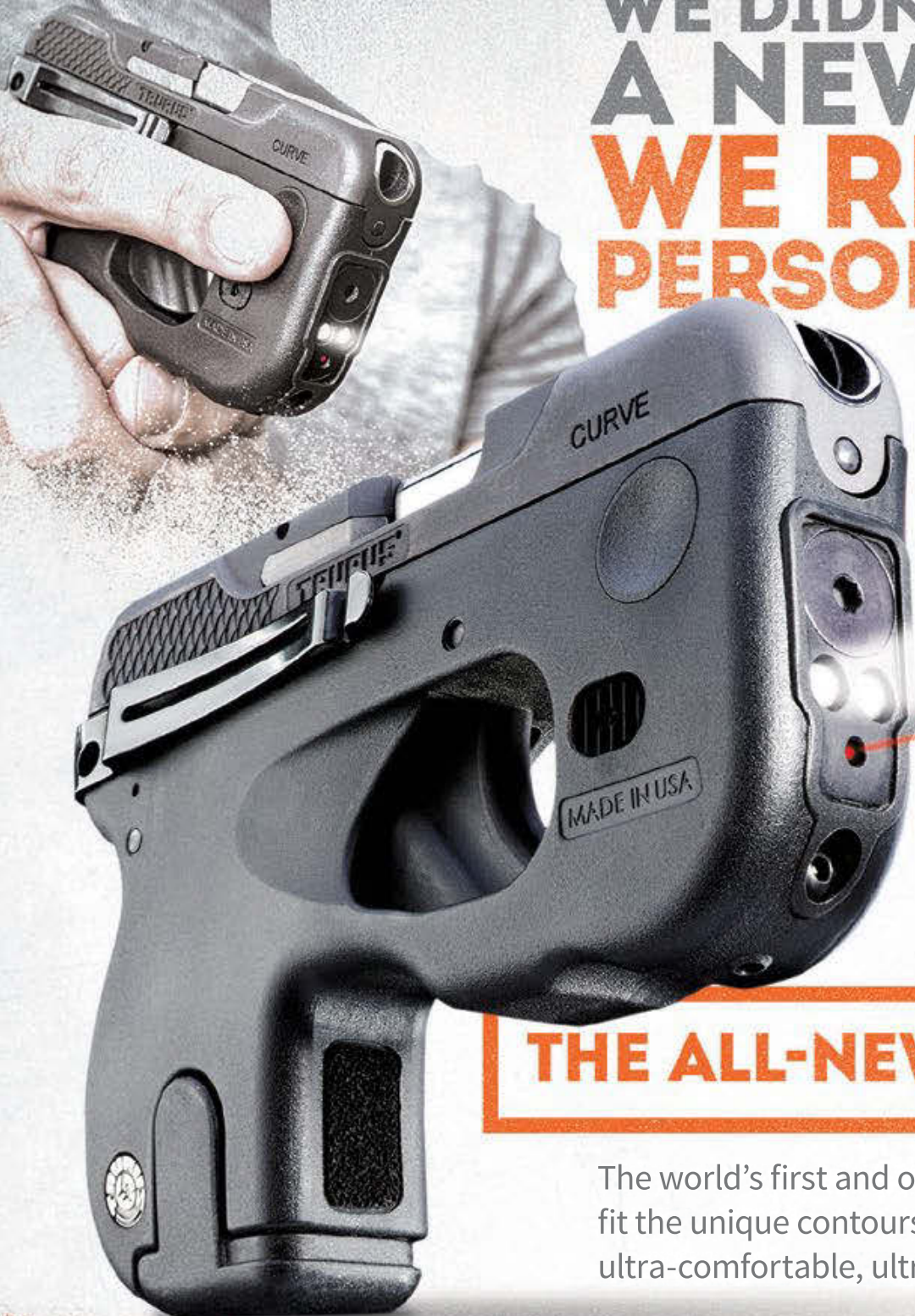
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GRAND 9mm

Fast, reliable and crazy accurate! Meet Grand Power's latest K100 import—the X-Trim Mk12.

BY DOUG LARSON

PHOTOS BY ALEX LANDEEN

FOR THOSE SHOOTERS WHO LIKE SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT, THE K100 X-TRIM MK 12 IS GOING TO BE OF INTEREST. Polymer-framed pistols are nothing new, but from time to time a company will combine features in a slightly different way in order to make a gun that will appeal to a certain segment of the market—and it looks like this unusual, rotating-barrel pistol will probably be one of those handguns.

While Slovakia-based Grand Power is not a well-known brand here in the United States, the company has been around since 2002 and builds some interesting handguns that have found a following among European shooters as well as some law enforcement and military units. Recently, Eagle Imports of Wanamassa, New Jersey, began importing the company's newest 9mm handgun, the K100 X-Trim Mk 12, which is a recoil-operated semi-automatic.

◎ ENHANCED NINE

It's a full-sized service pistol with a 4.25-inch barrel and is fed by a double-stack, steel box magazine that holds 15 rounds. While it has features that are useful on the competition range, there is no doubt that this gun could also be used for personal protection.

The frame is nicely executed. It's actually a CNC-machined steel frame set into a black polymer grip that is supplied with four backstraps to fit a wide variety of hand sizes. Interestingly, changing the backstraps is a



Grand Power's 9mm K100 X-Trim Mk12 (top) and K100 (bottom) feature a unique rotating-barrel system and ergonomic grips to help reduce recoil.

FIREPOWER

By using a rotating-barrel action, the barrel axis is closer to the hand, and muzzle flip is reduced...

GRAND POWER K100 X-TRIM MK12

Grand Power's 9mm K100 pistols have enlarged ejection ports for enhanced reliability. The X-Trim variant (top) has lightening/cooling slots in its slide.



simple task: Pry the backstrap off and snap the new backstrap into place.

Thanks to the grip's nicely pebbled texture and the horizontal grooves on the frontstrap, the gun was comfortable to securely hold. And for those who like the added security of a lanyard, there is a hole hidden beneath the backstrap, at the heel of the grip, that could probably be used as an attachment point. Lanyards are actually a pretty good idea on a fighting gun meant for serious duty.

SPECIFICATIONS

GRAND POWER K100 X-TRIM MK12

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Caliber | 9mm |
| Barrel | 4.25 inches |
| OA Length: | 7.97 inches |
| Weight | 27.84 ounces |
| Grips | Polymer |
| Sights | Rear notch, front fiber optic |
| Action: | DA/SA |
| Finish: | Tenifer |
| Capacity: | 15+1 |
| MSRP: | \$865 |

The juncture of the triggerguard and the frontstrap is undercut a bit to allow for a higher hold, which helps to reduce felt recoil and muzzle flip. Additionally, serrations are found on the front of the triggerguard, and it is squared off for those shooters who still adhere to the practice of wrapping their support-hand index finger around it for better control.

A good trigger is critical to accurate shot placement, and the one on this hammer fired, double-action (DA) test

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K100 grips are surprisingly thin, and users can switch out their backstraps for a perfect fit.

gun was a surprise. It is curved as most triggers are, but has a shape that brings to mind an I-beam. It's polymer, not steel, and is serrated on the front surface and has an overtravel bump on the back. Even though overtravel cannot be adjusted, I could feel none on the test gun. In single-action (SA) mode, the trigger broke cleanly at 4 pounds after a slight amount of take-up, and at about 9 pounds in DA after a smooth travel that was interrupted briefly by the feel of the hammer catching the half-cock notch before being fully retracted and released. The trigger's reset was distinct.

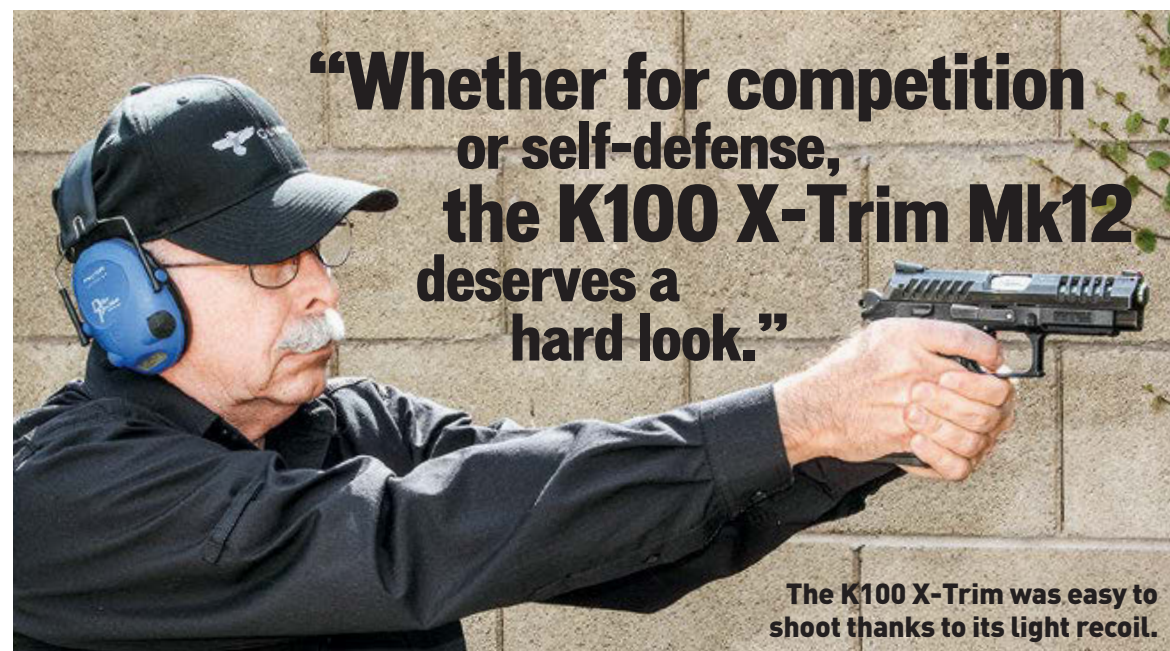
Fully ambidextrous (except for the ejection port) is an apt description of the K100 X-Trim. The magazine release consists of a button on each side of the frame that lies at the rear of the trigger-guard where it connects with the grip; it can be activated by pushing with the trigger finger or thumb. The button on the left side is oversized and is impossible to overlook, which brings to mind the question of whether it could be accidentally

activated while the gun is in the holster. The answer probably depends on the holster and carry method.

The slide release consists of two long steel levers, one on each side of the gun, which are easily manipulated. The K100 X-Trim is equipped with a thumb safety—up is “safe” and down is “fire”—that can be engaged or disengaged from either side with the firing-hand thumb. I found that changing the backstrap affected my ability to comfortably reach the safety, so the shooter would do well to consider that function when selecting the appropriate backstrap.

ON-TARGET DESIGN

A tactical light on a handgun is becoming more commonplace, and the gun is equipped with a rail on the dustcover to accommodate one of the many aftermarket lights or lasers that are now available. For testing I attached a Streamlight TLR-2 that incorporates both a light and laser. This setup was especially useful during accuracy testing.



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GRAND POWER K100 X-TRIM MK12



It was easy to make fast follow-up shots with Grand Power's K100 X-Trim pistol.

PERFORMANCE

GRAND POWER K100 X-TRIM MK12

| LOAD | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Black Hills 124 JHP | 1,146 | 1.33 |
| Federal 105 Guard Dog | 1,218 | 0.77 |
| Hornady Critical Defense 115 FTX | 1,128 | 0.83 |

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

Still, the sights are very serviceable, consisting of a drift-adjustable square notch rear and front fiber optic with a red insert. The eye is immediately drawn to the red optic that concentrates ambient light and makes it seem to glow. The rear sight is undercut, meaning the top edge of the rear extends further back than the bottom edge. Additionally, the rear is serrated with fine horizontal lines. These features greatly reduce glare and create a high degree of contrast between front and rear sights, making the sight picture easy to acquire for fast follow-up shots.

The steel slide is well polished before the black nitrocarburized Tenifer finish is applied. And instead of the bulk-adding square profile of some modern semi-automatic handguns, the slide has seven facets that give it eye appeal. The most noticeable feature of the slide on the K100 X-Trim Mk12, however, is the deeply cut rear serrations that provide an excellent gripping surface and the five slots on each side near the muzzle that expose the barrel. At first glance, it appears that the front slots are ports, but that is not the case. While they add interest and are attractive, the practical value of the slots may be limited to weight reduction and aiding in barrel cooling.

Made of stainless steel and highly polished, the barrel sits low in the frame. By using a rotating-barrel action, the barrel axis is closer to the hand, and muzzle



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A rail is included beneath the 4.25-inch barrel. Note the fiber-optic front sight.

flip is reduced compared to a Browning or modified Browning tilt-barrel system. It's just physics. The lower axis produces less leverage than it would if the barrel were higher, so it is easier for the shooter to get back on target. Although felt recoil is highly subjective and different shooters may perceive recoil generated by the same gun differently, my impression was noticeably less kick and faster target reacquisition.

Fit and finish on this Slovakian-

manufactured gun were very good. Not only were the slide and barrel polished, removing any hint of tooling marks (even on most interior surfaces), the chamber was polished, which should encourage proper extraction over long periods between cleaning. For those who reload, the feed ramp is part of the frame, so the mouth of the chamber is round, eliminating any concerns you might have about bulging case bases.

● ROUNDS DOWNRANGE

Accuracy testing of the K100 X-Trim Mk12 yielded a bit of a surprise. Normally, 3- to 4-inch groups at 25 yards are pretty standard for a combat handgun, and that level of accuracy is adequate for most self-defense purposes. However, the test gun delivered groups much better—in the sub-1- to 2-inch range. As a practical matter, that level of accuracy may be overkill, but it doesn't hurt either, and if it increases the shooter's level of confidence, that's good.

If the slots in the slide, oversized magazine release and sights on the K100 X-Trim are a bit more of a departure from convention than you want, Grand Power also offers the K100. It's nearly identical to the K100 X-Trim except for the items

mentioned above. Also, the sights are a sturdy traditional combat three-dot design with a drift-adjustable rear, and the slide serrations are not as deep. Other than that, it's nearly the same gun, and it costs a couple of hundred dollars less.

Both the K100 X-Trim and K100 were pleasant to shoot. However, before buying, one should consider the method of disassembly for cleaning. After making sure the magazine is removed and the gun is unloaded, the disassembly lock—called the dismantling segment by the company—at the front of the triggerguard is pulled down while the slide is pulled all the way to the rear and then lifted off the frame. Once separated, the recoil spring and barrel can be removed. Assembly is in reverse order. It may be a bit difficult for some to get a good grip on the frame while pulling the lever down. Practice, or a third hand, may help.

Whether for competition or self-defense, the K100 X-Trim Mk12 deserves a hard look. For more information, visit grandpowerusa.com, eagleimportsinc.com or call 732-493-0302. **CH**

Editor's Note: Check out author Doug Larson shooting the K100 X-Trim on the range at personaldefenseworld.com.



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BY MEGAN AMSELLE



ALEX LANDEEN PHOTO

This Glock rides perfectly in a Galco concealable Jak Slide holster.

When you first decide to start carrying a concealed firearm, the variety of methods and holsters that are available to choose from can be overwhelming. How do you know which will work best for you? Unfortunately, you can't know for sure until you try each method, but there are some shortcuts to make the decision easier. By learning all you can about the different methods of concealed carry, you can pick a few that appeal to you while discounting those that are unlikely to mesh well with your personal style and activities.

Steady, Solid Comfort

Most experts agree that on-body carry is the ideal carry method. The gun is less likely to be lost and more likely to be reachable when you need it. This is undoubtedly true, yet many women (me included) continue to rely on dedicated holster purses to carry our guns off-body. Why? For most, it's a matter of comfort. Even the best, safest holster in the world is useless if it is left at home because it isn't comfortable to wear. Since most women already carry purses around with them, it's easy and natural to carry a gun in there, too. Practices that are already second nature translate well into personal protection because the gun seldom gets left at home.

Of course, it's not just the ladies who enjoy the comfort and ease of off-body carry. With the introduction of holster briefcases, laptop bags and day plan-

ners, men too are flocking to this carry method. Off-body carry also makes it easier to carry a larger handgun and spare ammunition. And it's no longer even necessary for ladies to purchase a dedicated holster bag.

For those who already have a non-holster purse they love or whose laptop requires a specific case, the Pavona D'Wedge holster system from EAA might be the perfect solution. This is a rigid-framed insert with an attached Kydex holster. The holster can be adjusted to customize the angle at which the gun sits. It works great for bags that need extra support to prevent them from sagging oddly under the weight of a gun. The insert is 5.75 inches tall and adjusts to anywhere from 10 to 14 inches in length, so it can't be used with small bags but is ideally sized for laptop bags and briefcases.

Once you've chosen a carry bag, it's important to practice drawing from it so that the motion feels natural. Unfortunately, many ranges do not allow drawing from purses, since the gun is often momentarily pointed sideways or backwards. Instead, you can practice drawing from your bag at home with an unloaded gun in a safe direction. A holster bag user also needs to get in the habit of holding their bag in a way that gives ready access to the gun. Depending on the particular style of bag chosen, this may mean consistently carrying it so that your strong hand is free and so the holster pocket faces forward. Get in the

habit of carrying the bag correctly so that when trouble hits, you are ready.

It should be noted that off-body carry requires a very high degree of awareness of where your gun is at all times. The gun should be carried in a dedicated pocket and not mixed in with other items like keys, money or cell phones, even if it is in a holster. You have to take special care that your purse and gun are not accessible by anyone but you.

Safe And Secure

Carrying a concealed firearm on-body means getting used to wearing a holster and dressing so that the holster remains hidden. Although this might involve some adjustments to your personal routine, rest assured that this is the safest and most recommended concealed carry method. Holster bags, after all, can be lost or stolen (imagine the delight of the thief who was only expecting to find money!). A gun that's kept on your person is far more difficult to lose.

Wearing a gun used to mean wearing a men's holster that was designed to be held by a sturdy belt or deep pocket—two features often lacking from women's fashion. Luckily, there are now holsters made specifically for women, such as the new line of ladies' holsters from Crossfire Elite. The line consists of four different holster models worn on the waistband or in a pocket. While they come in fun, eye-catching patterns and colors, you'll soon appreciate the low-profile, less-bulky designs that make

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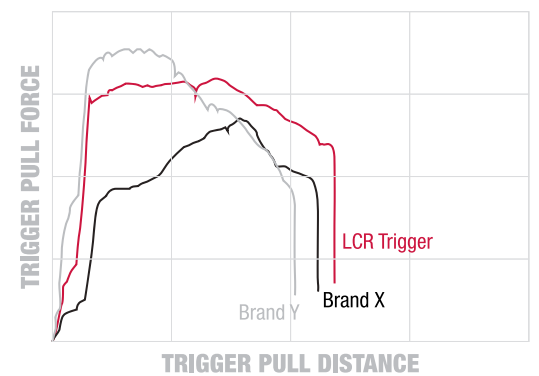
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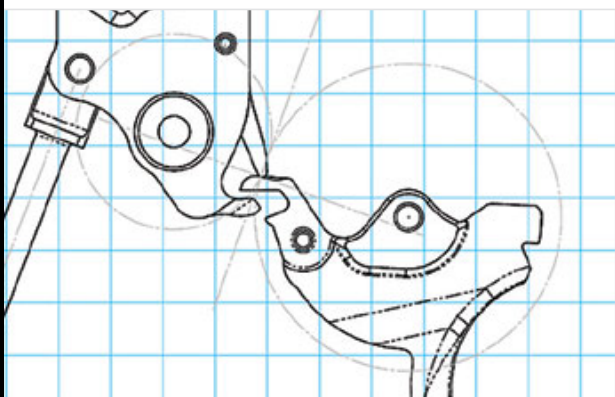


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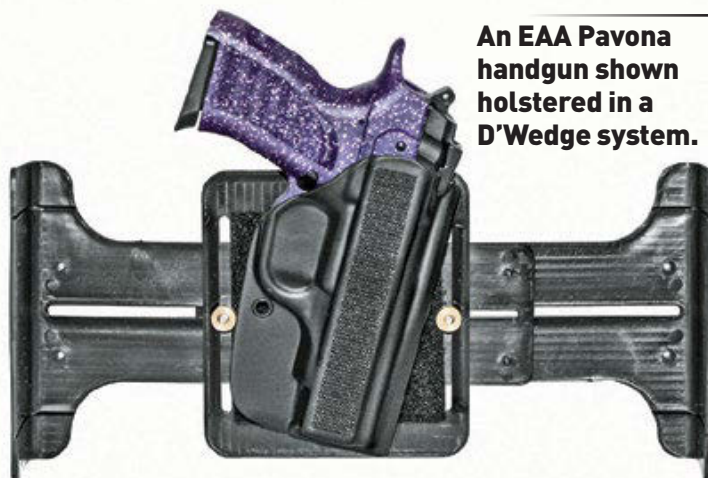


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them comfortable.

For those who prefer to carry their gun on the waistband, there are a couple of different options. The Edge is the largest and sturdiest of the holster models. It's also the only model available in a size that can accommodate a full-sized handgun, in addition to sizes for compact and subcompact guns. The Edge has a wider shape than the other models, giving it room for two strong belt clips that hold it very securely on the waistband. The second clip gives this holster a stability that simply can't be matched by a holster with only a single clip. The clips could also be fastened to a pocket inside a purse. For outside-the-waistband (OWB) carry, the holster adds almost no bulk besides that of the gun itself. The cloth and memory foam construction keep it comfortable and low in profile.

The Pulse model is a smaller waistband holster with a single belt clip. This clip can be attached on either side of the holster, making this model completely ambidextrous. The clip can be left off entirely for inside-the-waistband (IWB) carry, if your pants fit snugly. Whether worn inside or outside the waistband, the smaller size of this holster allows it to fit into a variety of positions on the wearer's waist, including strong side, appendix, cross-draw and small of the back. It comes in three sizes to fit micro, subcompact and compact handguns. Like the larger model, the Pulse has a rigid front to keep the holster's cavity from collapsing when it's empty. This does, however, make it a bit bulkier than Crossfire's other inside-the-waistband design, the Luxe.

The Luxe is a slim holster that can be worn inside the waistband or in a pocket. Its clip is reversible. It has a rubberized exterior that holds the holster in place with friction and makes it very smooth and comfortable against the body. A small side clip also allows it to be fastened inside a purse if the owner wishes. The Luxe is sized for micro and subcompact guns with barrel lengths of less than 2.5 inches.

The final Crossfire ladies' holster is the Rebel, a classically sleek pocket holster. It features the same rubberized exterior as the Luxe to hold it in place, but the Rebel has no retention straps or clips whatsoever, leaving its exterior smooth and soft for pocket carry comfort. Its interior is a soft fleece, so the gun slides out easily when drawn and won't carry the holster out along with it.

Armed And Active

One of the most challenging scenarios for concealed carry is jogging or other types of exercise. Women jogging alone are frequently targeted by criminals, so it's a very important time to carry your gun. Yet workout clothes are very unaccommodating—there are no purses, no belts and often no pockets. In warm weather, the best solution is usually a belly band under a T-shirt. In cooler weather, a holster shirt underneath a sweatshirt or jacket is also a possibility.

The T-Sholster features an underarm elastic holster and magazine pouches that are mounted onto sturdy Velcro patches. The position and angle of the holster can be customized by simply adjusting the patch. The Velcro is strong



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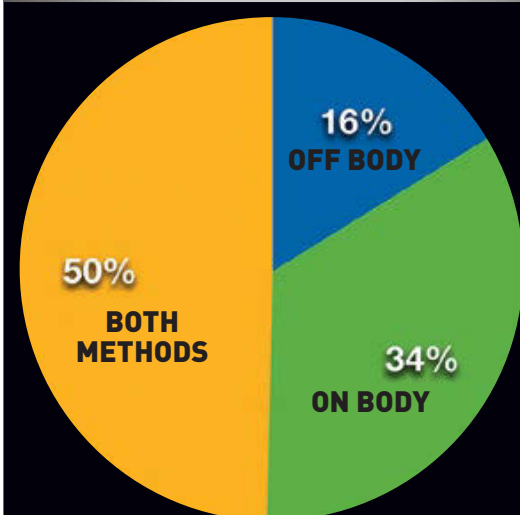
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HOW SHE CARRIES



In an online survey, 284 women responded to the question, "When you carry concealed, how do you carry?" The multiple choice answers were as follows: A) Off body, like in a purse or other type bag. B) On body, some type of holster that attaches to the body. C) I carry using both methods depending on what I am wearing or where I am going. —Michelle Cerino

enough to hold the gun vertically, horizontally or at any angle without shifting at all. The holster can accommodate most gun sizes and can be easily switched to the other side if you're left-handed.

While the T-Sholster is available in long-sleeved, short-sleeved and sleeveless styles, it unfortunately only comes in men's sizes, which makes it a bit more difficult for ladies to guess their correct size. I also found that I needed to move the Velcro patches up a bit to compensate for my shorter torso length. Once you've made the proper adjustments, you'll find that these simple black or white Spandex shirts also look great under a business suit or casual clothes.

Your carry collection might include a couple of holsters, a holster shirt and a holster bag for times when on-body carry just isn't possible. While experts might recommend one carry method over another, your personal taste and comfort should ultimately guide you. A holster that's too uncomfortable and is never worn is useless. A gun that's carried comfortably is the one that is most likely to be with you when you need it. **CH**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Mark

Harness the awesome power of the .50 Action Express with Magnum Research's newest Mark XIX Desert Eagle, a desert-inspired beast with a 7+1 capacity.



There are a number of factors that contribute to the Desert Eagle's legendary accuracy. First and foremost is the fixed barrel design.

XIX .50 AE

BRONZE BEAUTY

A “both hands on” review of the iconic Desert Eagle that’s turning heads now more than ever with its slick finish.

BY MIKE DETTY | PHOTOS BY STEVE WOODS



MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, THE DESERT EAGLE IS A SERIOUS GUN! WITH ITS HAND-FILLING GIRTH AND 4.75-POUND, SOLID-STEEL HEFT, THE PRECISION-ENGINEERED pistol possesses power and accuracy not normally associated with handguns. There are very few guns that are as iconic as Magnum Research’s massive Desert Eagle. It is a gun that is instantly recognizable and symbolic of American ingenuity and brute force.

● **BACKSTORY**

It’s hard to believe, but Magnum Research is in its 29th year of production with the Desert Eagle! In 1979, Magnum Researcher’s founders, Jim Skildum and John Risdall, started the long and arduous process of transforming blueprints into a working masterpiece. Full-fledged production of the gun started in 1985, with pistols being manufactured in Israel

by Israel Military Industries (IMI) until 1995, when MRI relocated manufacturing to Saco Defense in Maine. In 1998, MRI moved its manufacturing back to IMI, which had been reorganized as Israel Weapons Industries (IWI). In 2009, MRI started manufacturing the Desert Eagle at its Pillager, Minnesota factory. In 2010, Kahr Arms bought Magnum Research, and the guns are currently being produced at the Pillager plant and are sometimes supplemented by IWI guns to keep up with demand.

● **GUN DETAILS**

My test sample of Magnum Research’s Desert Eagle Mark XIX chambered for the powerful .50 AE sports a highly popular burnt bronze Cerakote finish. While the Desert Eagle uses several design innovations for reliable function, some of these design attributes were not un-

known in the world of firearms. A short-stroke piston, not unlike that used in the M1 Carbine, is used. Gas passes through a hole underneath the bore and into the gas cylinder, where it pushes the piston rearward. The piston hits the slide and imparts enough inertia to drive the slide back to where the bolt unlocks (after the pressure subsides) and the extraction, ejection and feeding cycles begin. Twin recoil springs slow the slide’s rearward movement and then push it forward so the slide can pick up the next round from the magazine and chamber it.

MRI’s Desert Eagle uses a rotating bolt lockup that is reminiscent of the AR-15/M16 family of weapons. The bolt head locks into the barrel extension to provide a solid lockup at the moment of cartridge ignition. Once the bullet has left the barrel and the pressure has dropped, the bolt unlocks to cycle the action. It is

MRI DESERT EAGLE MARK XIX



The Mark XIX sports large rear slide serrations, a slide-mounted thumb safety, a serrated, easy-to-reach slide release and Hogue grips.

a hearty system developed to handle the powerful cartridges.

There are a number of factors that contribute to the Desert Eagle's legendary accuracy. First and foremost is the fixed barrel design. Unlike a 1911, the barrel does not drop to unlock. Some of the most accurate target guns in the world utilize fixed barrels, the Desert Eagle being one of them. Also aiding in accuracy is the polygonal rifling MRI specifies for this pistol. There are a number of benefits to this type of rifling aside from improved accuracy; greater barrel life is claimed, as is increased velocity since it is easier for the bullet to get a better gas seal. Polygonal barrels are also much easier to clean. Most residue is removed with a patch with little scrubbing needed since there are no sharp edges to gouge bullet jackets or deform the projectile in any way. MRI

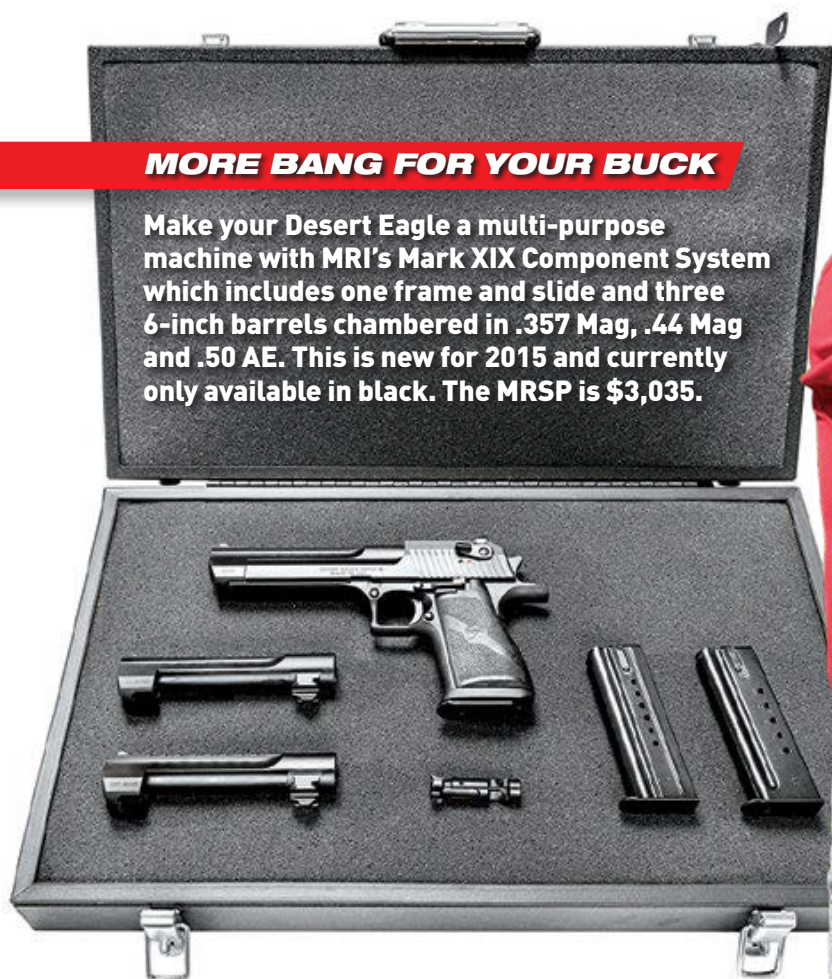
machines the top of the barrel with a Weaver rail for attaching optics to optimize the gun's accuracy potential.

A good trigger doesn't necessarily contribute to the gun's mechanical accuracy, but it sure does make it easier to shoot the pistol more accurately. Although single action (SA) in design, the Desert Eagle's trigger has a decidedly two-stage feel to it. The first stage is all take-up until you get to a point of increased resistance. The trigger's take-up on my test sample was only about 0.125 inches. The second stage broke crisply at approximately 3.75 pounds. MRI calls its trigger the Adjustable Trigger Mechanism (ATM). The location of the transition between stages may be adjusted to be at any point within the trigger travel. ATM adjustments are made by inserting a screwdriver through the magazine housing opening.

Desert Eagles have a slide-mounted manual thumb safety, and while the gun can be carried with a round in the chamber, with the hammer cocked and safety applied, the gun's manual recommends carrying the gun with an empty chamber. I found it difficult, even with my large hands, to disengage the thumb safety while maintaining a firing grip. At the range, I used my support hand to apply and disengage the safety.

MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Make your Desert Eagle a multi-purpose machine with MRI's Mark XIX Component System which includes one frame and slide and three 6-inch barrels chambered in .357 Mag, .44 Mag and .50 AE. This is new for 2015 and currently only available in black. The MRSP is \$3,035.



“The best group of the day measured just 1.30 inches from center to center for a five-shot group with Hornady's 300-grain XTP bullets.”

● BEHIND THE BEAST

I guess it was only fitting that I received a Desert Eagle XIX to test when winds were at record peaks here in the desert Southwest. With a 20-mph crosswind and gusts blustering to 45 mph, not only were my chronograph and target stand blown over, but the winds forced fine desert sand into every crevice of the mighty .50 AE Desert Eagle.

After watching my chronograph crash into the sand five or six times, I finally managed to get good readings with the two loads I had available for testing. I lost track of the number of times I had started firing a group only to have my target stand blow over or, worse yet, my target rip itself from the frame and blow merrily downrange and beyond.

I have a technique where I hold the gun and concentrate on sight picture while I increasingly add pressure to the trigger, letting the gun almost recoil freely until it settles back in the Millett Benchmaster I use for support. There haven't been many quality 1911s over the years that I haven't been able to print at least one sub-inch group at 25 yards with this technique. But this technique wasn't going to work for the Magnum Research Desert Eagle.

At first I tried using muscle and isometric pressure, but this caused too

The top of the .50 AE Mark XIX features a long Weaver rail for adding optics.



SPECIFICATIONS

MRI DESERT EAGLE MARK XIX

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Caliber | .50 AE |
| Barrel | 6 inches |
| OA Length | 10.75 inches |
| Weight | 4.75 pounds (empty) |
| Grips | Hogue |
| Sights | Fixed |
| Action | SA |
| Finish | Burnt bronze Cerakote |
| Capacity | 7+1 |
| MSRP | \$1,712 |

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The heavy-hitting Desert Eagle produced
sub-2-inch groups at 25 yards.

PERFORMANCE

MRI DESERT EAGLE MARK XIX

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to change
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barrels.”**

much trembling to be of use. Groups strung vertically. I finally refined my hold by pushing into the gun, leaning as far forward as possible and locking my wrist and elbow so my shoulder would bear the brunt of the recoil. I used my support hand to apply pressure to the front of my right hand. By now I had expended a considerable amount of ammo; between the chronograph's misreads and targets blowing away, I had not yet produced a group that I thought was indicative of this precision cannon's accuracy. Without sounding wimpy, I had to remind myself that the .50 AE cartridge was generating roughly four times the energy of a hot .45 ACP defense round, so I had to cut myself a little slack. My final few groups tightened considerably.

The best group of the day measured just 1.30 inches from center to center for a five-shot group with Hornady's 300-grain XTP bullets. MRI's 300-grain round produced a group just slightly bigger, at 1.57 inches.

I'm sure the gun is far more accurate

TRIDENT II



Photo Courtesy of Camera 1, Columbus Georgia

Trident A1 - 1911 Gov with integral equipment rail and integral magazine well

Trident A2 - 1911 Gov with integral magazine well but no equipment rail

Trident A3 - 1911 Commander no rail or mag well

Each pistol comes with 3 magazines

I am pleased to announce the introduction of the Trident II. The Trident II represents our continuing commitment to produce a state of the art 1911 style pistol that will function in any environment that may be encountered anywhere in the world.

We have decided to produce the Trident on our own slides and frames that we have been using in the building of our full custom 1911 pistols. This has allowed us to offer several new features and thus the new Trident II.

The overall quality of the Trident II has also been improved. The slides and frames are manufactured here in the US as well as all of the other parts that are in the pistol. We are using all C&S parts to manufacture the pistol. All critical internal parts are cnc machined billet steel or made from forgings and heat treated throughout. Every part is checked on our Rockwell testing machine to be sure that it meets our specifications for the proper heat treatment. Each pistol is hand built one at a time by one pistolsmith.

The Nickel Boron finish has also been improved. We have found a company that applies the Nickel Boron finish to a much higher standard of quality control than the previous company that we were using. The finish thickness is extremely even.

Bill Laughridge, President, Cylinder & Slide Inc.



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than I was able to shoot it, and as my range session progressed I found myself flinching less and less. One thing that helped was the Desert Eagle's crisp SA trigger, breaking with just 3.75 pounds of pressure. Its crispness and light weight made the gun's impressive roar predictable, and this aided me in concentrating on sight alignment while adding the pressure needed to break the shot. Once I concentrated on locking my wrist and elbow, the mighty Desert Eagle was not snapping my wrist painfully. Without the sharp pain, the gun became much more pleasant to shoot.

In the first two magazines of ammo I had a couple instances where the slide did not go fully into battery. Using my thumb, I could easily seat the slide with little pressure. After 21 rounds, the problem resolved itself. The pistol was shipped to me dry, without lubrication, and I can only presume this was done to prevent any dark spots on the beautiful burnt bronze Cerakote finish. In any event, the rough spots must have worked themselves out because I didn't have any stoppages after that. I'm certain that if I had lubricated the Desert Eagle prior to my range session I would not have

had any issues. In all, I fired 65 rounds during my range session with the Desert Eagle, and I felt as though I had done a good day's work!

SOARING EAGLE

Last year, I had the opportunity to evaluate a Desert Eagle chambered in .44 Magnum. I would have guessed this to be MRI's most popular gun, but I was wrong. In a recent phone interview with Kahr Firearms Group Vice President of Sales And Marketing Frank Harris, I found out that the .50 AE is MRI's top selling Desert Eagle. "It seems like the



The burnt bronze Cerakote finish is attractive while also being extremely durable and corrosion resistant.

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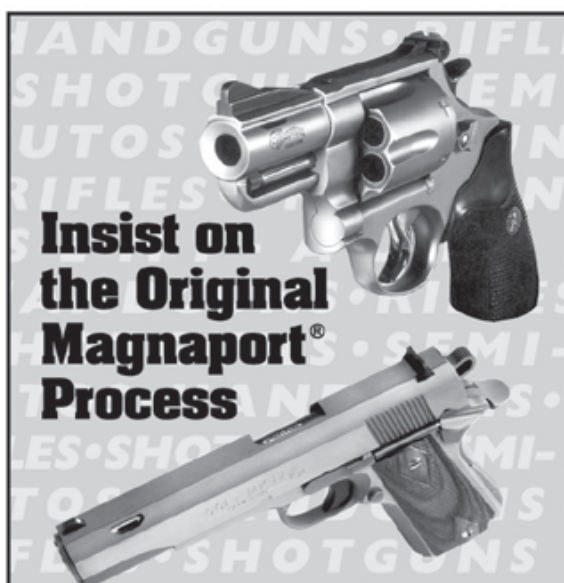
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MRI DESERT EAGLE MARK XIX

EASY DISASSEMBLY

TAKING DOWN THE BEAST

Disassembly of the Desert Eagle is easy and can be accomplished without any special tools, though MRI does include a 5-in-1 tool to aid the shooter in the maintenance of its gun. Start by removing the magazine and clearing the chamber, then lower the hammer and then pull it back slightly until it clicks into the semi-cocked position. Move the safety catch into the "safe" position. Press the barrel lock pin on the left side of the frame while swinging the barrel lock on the other side counter-clockwise. Pull the barrel slightly forward to release it and lift the barrel out. Now draw the slide forward and remove it. Now the recoil spring unit can be removed. The recoil spring unit captures the gas piston, and once the springs are removed the gas piston can be removed for cleaning. This will also allow you to use the 5-in-1 tool to clean



One of the Desert Eagle's strong suits is that it is easy to take down for cleaning and maintenance. It can be done without tools, though Magnum Research includes a 5-in-1 tool for disassembly.

out the gas cylinder.

To reassemble, lay the slide upside down on a level surface. Insert the gas piston into place and make sure that the piston shaft recess is facing the slide recess. The recoil spring plate lug will capture this part. Using your thumb to keep these parts positioned, place the slide back on the frame. Now insert the barrel's locking lug into the frame's recess. Push against the barrel from the

muzzle end and hold the barrel assembly against the frame while swinging the barrel-lock clockwise into its closed position. Check the pistol for proper operation by cocking and releasing the hammer and verify that the safety is functioning properly. There's nothing fragile about the Desert Eagle—each of its components are machined from steel, robust in design and unlikely to fail.

Desert Eagle's appeal is its big bore and the largest percentage of buyers go right to the biggest chambering: the .50 AE." Harris went on to tell me that the typical buyer was a collector, a person fascinated with the Desert Eagle's design and power. Other buyers live in or hunt in areas with bear or big game where the gun would be effective.

One of the great design features of the Desert Eagle is its ability to change calibers and barrels. The .44 Magnum and .50 AE share the same bolt. If you own a Desert Eagle pistol in either caliber and want to switch to .357 Magnum, you'll need to buy another bolt—MRI sells complete packages—along with the barrel and magazine. Purchase one pistol and you have the ability to build

two other configurations.

The appeal of the Desert Eagle is undeniable! Built from the finest carbon steel available and precision engineered, it embodies American ingenuity and craftsmanship. You don't have to live in bear country to want to own a Desert Eagle. The allure and mystique, not to mention its raw power and accuracy, are reason enough to want to add this beast to your collection! My test sample Desert Eagle Mark XIX, with its burnt bronze Cerakote finish, was extremely attractive and reliable on the range. If this is the gun of your dreams have your firearms retailer order it for you, and don't delay because production is limited. For more information, visit magnumresearch.com or call 508-635-4273. **CH**



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BUILT IN GERMANY




The Dan Wesson Guardian, chambered in the .38 Super, a favorite among competitors, comes with a high-swept beavertail safety with a memory bump, a bobtail frame and attractive yet functional cocobolo grip panels with subtle texturing.



.38 SUPER GUARDIAN

Dan Wesson combines features from its top-selling Bobtail Commander and CCO to give IPSC and everyday shooters one super-sweet 1911.

BY MARTIN TOPPER | **PHOTOS BY** STEVE WOODS



The slide and frame have a smooth, corrosion-resistant Duty Black finish that gives the pistol a no-nonsense look. This .38 Super workhorse is ready to perform, whether you're on the range or protecting your home, right out of the box.

THE DAN WESSON GUARDIAN COMBINES FIRST-RATE .38 SUPER STOPPING POWER AND EXCELLENT CONTROLLABILITY IN A LIGHTWEIGHT, SEMI-AUTOMATIC M1911 pistol. Compared to an aluminum-framed 1911 chambered in .45 ACP, the .38 Super Guardian produces higher velocity, more energy, flatter trajectory and less recoil. The .38 Super +P cartridge also holds a small edge in power over the 9mm, even when both are fired in a Commander-length barrel. Given the .38 Super's excellent performance, it's easy to see why Dan Wesson has chambered the Guardian in this fine, old caliber.

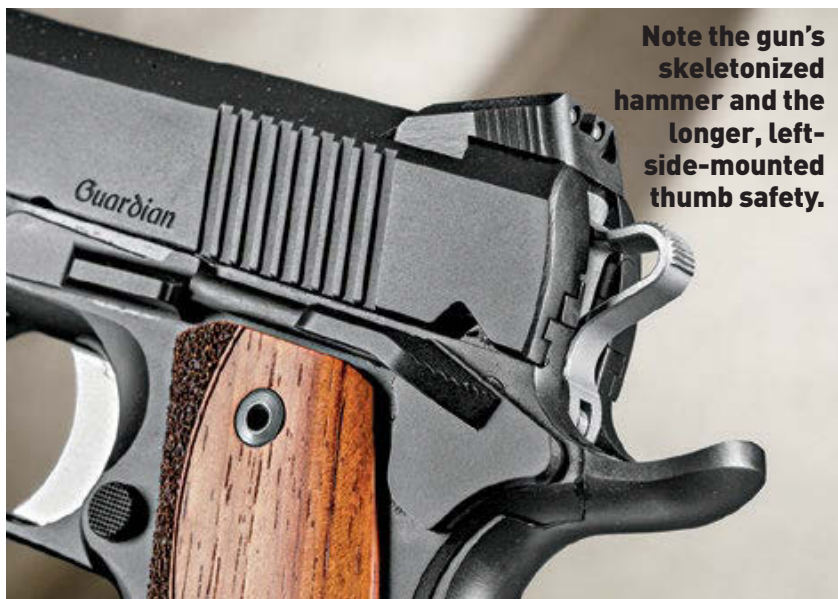
GUARDIAN PROFILE

The Guardian's quality and attention to detail was evident from the moment I opened its plastic shipping case at the Florida Gun Exchange. The finish was excellent. The matte black, anodized bobtail frame matched the matte Dan Wesson "Duty Black" protective finish of the slide. Duty Black is a weather-resistant proprietary finish similar to Melonite and Tenifer. The partially stippled Dan Wesson cocobolo grips had good figure and their satin finish nicely accented the matte finish on the slide and frame. In addition, the matte silver color of the bar-

rel, bushing, trigger and hammer were an attractive counterpoint to the black slide, frame and safeties. The pistol's exterior edges were rounded to prevent cuts on the shooter's hands and damage to clothing. Checkering on the frontstrap was 25 lpi, and was also not so sharp that it hurt the hand. The bobtail backstrap was smooth with no checkering for clothing to cling to. Close examination of the exterior revealed no rough surfaces, tool marks or poorly conformed edges. Carried in an inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster, the Guardian does not print, even through light fabric.

Fit of the Guardian's large and small parts was also very good. There was no play whatsoever between the slide and the frame. Lockup of the barrel, slide and frame was solid. Pressing down hard on the barrel hood when the gun was in battery did not cause any play between the slide, barrel and frame. With respect to the pistol's smaller parts, there wasn't even a hint of looseness in the manual safety or play in the hammer. The hammer could not be pushed off the sear, regardless of the position of the safeties or whether the hammer was at half or full cock. The Guardian's Novak-style night sights were well centered and very secure in their dovetails.

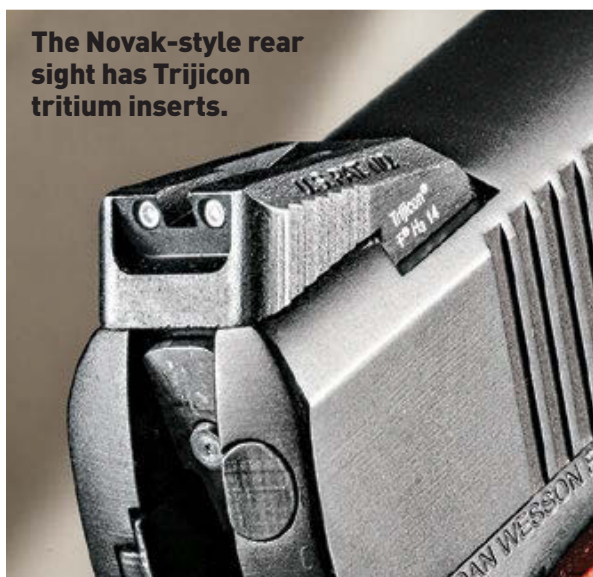
Given the attention paid to fit, it was no surprise that the controls and safeties functioned very well. The trigger pull



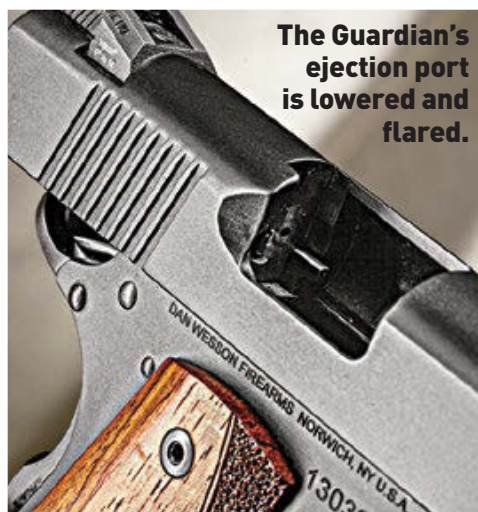
Note the gun's skeletonized hammer and the longer, left-side-mounted thumb safety.



The silver barrel and bushing stylishly contrast the Guardian's matte black slide and frame.



The Novak-style rear sight has Trijicon tritium inserts.



The Guardian's ejection port is lowered and flared.

“After emptying both magazines five times, it was clear that the Guardian was very shootable and reliable.”

was light and even. The Guardian has three safeties—a disconnecter, a manual safety and a grip safety with a memory bump that ensures the safety will disengage when the shooter grips the gun. It does not have a firing-pin block. All of the safeties worked well. Additionally, the slide stop securely locked the slide open on an empty magazine, and the magazines ejected smartly when the magazine release was pressed.

When I field-stripped the Guardian for cleaning, it was evident that the interior of the gun was as well made as the exterior. The match barrel was well contoured and the barrel's fully supported chamber and bore were bright. The rifling, single-stage feedramp, locking lugs and recessed target crown were also well contoured, and there were no toolmarks, burrs or rough spots anywhere on or inside the barrel. The same can be said for the underside of the slide and the inside of the frame. Everything was square without sharp edges, rough spots or tool marks. Trigger pull was measured with an RCBS trigger pull scale. The pull was a crisp 4.5 pounds, and the overtravel screw was backed off just enough to allow for the trigger to function consistently.



The Guardian was fast and controllable during a series of tactical drills involving multiple targets at various ranges.



| SPECIFICATIONS | |
|---------------------|---|
| DAN WESSON GUARDIAN | |
| Caliber | .38 Super |
| Barrel | 4.25 inches |
| OA Length | 8 inches |
| Weight | 28.8 ounces (empty) |
| Grips | Cocobolo |
| Sights | Fixed front, windage-adjustable rear night sights |
| Action | SA |
| Finish | Duty Black |
| Capacity | 9+1 |
| MSRP | \$1,558 |

GO TIME

The .38 Super +P Guardian was test fired to determine accuracy, velocity and reliability at the Volusia County Gun & Hunt Club. Tactical drills were also run from 5 and 10 yards to determine the pistol's reliability and accuracy during rapid fire. I used four different types of ammunition for the testing, including Federal and Winchester's 130-grain FMJ (full metal jacket) loads and CorBon's 147-grain FMJ. The gun was also tested with 10 CorBon 125-grain JHP (jacketed hollow-point) cartridges that had been left over from a previous test.

Accuracy testing was done at a distance of 25 yards. The Guardian was hand-held using an MTM Front Rifle Rest, and a Leupold Kenai spotting scope was used to check where the bullets were hitting. The Guardian's tactical night sights presented a good sight picture, with plenty of light on either side of the front sight blade. The sights are mounted in dovetail cuts on the slide and are adjustable for windage. They are not adjustable for elevation, however, which is determined at the factory. The sights were dead-on for windage, and elevation was set for a 6 o'clock hold. Holding at 6 o'clock on the 6-inch black center of a bullseye target placed the 130-grain FMJ loads about 2 inches high. The faster 125-grain CorBon JHP was dead-on for both windage and elevation when the pistol was aimed at the bottom of the dark center.

Average size for five-shot groups of the three hardball loads ranged from 2.86 inches to 4.31 inches, with the average for all shots being 3.5 inches. The smallest five-shot group was fired with Winchester's 130-grain FMJ. It was 2.28 inches. The only group fired with CorBon's 125-grain JHP ammunition measured 3.33 inches.

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DAN WESSON GUARDIAN

“...the .38 Super +P cartridge has gained a loyal following among International Practical Shooting Confederation shooters and people who use 1911s for personal defense.”

Overall, this is reasonable 25-yard accuracy for a tactical pistol. The Guardian's accuracy was very good compared to the accuracy of .38 Super pistols built before 1990. Up until then, .38 Super +P cartridges headspaced on a small “semi-rim” at the case's base. Differences between the rim dimensions of various commercial cartridges made consistent headspacing difficult, and this contributed to the .38 Super's reputation for mediocre accuracy. Newer .38 Super cartridges headspace on the case mouth like most other semi-autos. Since the newer system of headspacing was adopted, the .38 Super +P cartridge has gained a loyal following among International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) shooters and people who use 1911s for personal defense.

Velocity testing was done by chronograph with screens placed 15 feet from the muzzle. The FMJ rounds were all very mild, and were loaded to velocities that are roughly equivalent to a standard pressure 9mm. The CorBon 125-grain JHP was loaded quite a bit hotter, and produced an average muzzle velocity of 1,236 feet per second (fps) and 424 foot-pounds of muzzle energy. This is above the upper limit of performance for most commercial 9mm +P loads in guns with 4-inch barrels.

The Guardian's reliability from the bench was generally good, but there were a small number of failures when the slide didn't return into battery when feeding a cartridge. In a tightly fitted 1911 like the Guardian, additional lubrication is often needed during the first few hundred rounds of the break-in period. When a tightly fitted semi-automatic pistol doesn't run perfectly, I normally put a light layer of TW-25B synthetic grease on the barrel, locking lugs and



PERFORMANCE

DAN WESSON GUARDIAN .38 SUPER

| LOAD | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| American Eagle 130 +P FMJ | 1,121 | 4.31 |
| CorBon 147 FMJ | 928 | 2.86 |
| Winchester 130 +P FMJ | 1,150 | 3.34 |

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

the slide and frame rails. This is followed by a few drops of Militec-1 synthetic oil. I then work the action a number of times to spread the lubricants before firing the gun. Once this was done there were no further issues with reliability.

TACTICAL TESTS

The tactical capabilities of the .38 Super Guardian were assessed by using it to run drills using PR-HTB21E targets from Law Enforcement Targets. The 21E target is a multi-colored silhouette that depicts two armed assailants, one standing behind the other. The front assailant is fully exposed, however the person shooting can only see the head and gun arm of the second assailant. In order to neutralize both assailants, the shooter must perform a head or center-chest shot on the first silhouette and a headshot on the silhouette behind it.

Two 21E targets were set up with a 1-yard separation between them. This simple scenario presented four armed assailants that needed to be neutralized with quick center-chest or head shots.

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DAN WESSON GUARDIAN

“The Dan Wesson Guardian ran well no matter how hot or dirty it became. Recoil was very controllable...”

Shooting was first conducted from the 5-yard line and then repeated from a distance of 10 yards. Each sequence of fire involved drawing from a Galco holster, firing a full magazine at all four silhouettes, reloading, and then emptying the second magazine into all four silhouettes. I aimed the Guardian at the center-chest areas on the fully exposed silhouettes and at the heads of the silhouettes mostly obscured from vision. Some of the drills involved firing two center-chest shots on the fully exposed silhouette and then one to the head of each partially exposed silhouette. Other drills employed “roadhouse rules.” Each silhouette received one shot before any of them got seconds. All shots were fired as



The pistol's trigger, with a matte stainless finish that matches the barrel, bushing and hammer, has a light and even pull for enhanced precision.

fast as the sights could be acquired.

These drills demonstrated the Guardian's excellent tactical qualities. All shots were grouped in the center-chest or head. The Dan Wesson Guardian ran well no matter how hot or dirty it became. Recoil was very controllable making accurate rapid fire seem easy. After emptying both magazines five times, it was clear that the Guardian was very shootable and reliable.

FINAL NOTES

The .38 Super +P is no longer touted as “the ideal one-hand gun...that will stop any animal on the American continent.” Even so, it is a powerful defensive cartridge with velocities comparable to the .357 SIG. Loaded with modern hollow-point ammunition and chambered in a well-made 1911 like the Dan Wesson Guardian, the .38 Super +P offers an excellent balance of concealability, tactical accuracy, terminal effectiveness, firepower and controllability. All things considered, the Dan Wesson Guardian is a thoroughly modern 1911-style pistol chambered for an excellent cartridge. For more information, visit cz-usa.com or call 800-955-4486. **CD**

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It's a scary fact. Survival food is literally **FLYING** off the shelves. As a matter of fact, I've been hearing reports that survival food is actually sold out in many areas of the country. This has caught most people – including me – totally by surprise. I'd never seen anything like this in my life.

Well, I love a good mystery. So, I started doing some snooping, trying to discover why survival food is disappearing at a record rate? Who's buying it? Where in the world is it going? And what are they planning to do with it all?

Guess what I found out! My digging around paid off. What I found was that a well-known agency, which is actually responsible for aiding Americans in times of crisis, is hoarding it. Literally, hoarding it! From what I can tell, they're stashing it in non-descript warehouses all around the country.

I even have the proof in writing. These people were brazen enough to send an official inquiry asking how much survival food we had, where was it kept, how quickly could they get ahold of it, and more.

Enough was enough! I knew right then that I had an obligation to share my findings with patriots everywhere. This hoarding could have far-reaching effects on all of us, including a nationwide shortage of survival food available for the general population.

I want to help ensure that there is always an adequate supply of survival food available for those who want it. Hell, if you are smart enough to understand that in a crisis, food will quickly become more valuable than gold, then you should be able to get it whenever you chose, with no one stopping you.



Protect your family in a crisis with 25-year shelf life survival food from getfood3.com

Now, you'd better believe the agency is not at all happy that I'm revealing this story. No surprise there. Truth is, they are trying really hard to keep this information from the public to avoid causing panic.

I'm sorry, but I think you deserve to know the truth! I've posted a video online that explains everything you need to know about the looming survival food shortage. Go NOW to **GETFOOD3.COM** Check out my video ... while you still can. As you can imagine, I've been getting some heat over this, and I honestly don't know how much longer I'll be able to continue exposing this top-secret story.

In the meantime, don't worry; I'm doing everything I can to keep our survival food out of this group's hands. Go to GetFood3.com now and I'll show you how you can still get our highest quality Food4Patriots survival food at "fire sale" prices – as low as \$1.39 per serving – but only if you act fast.



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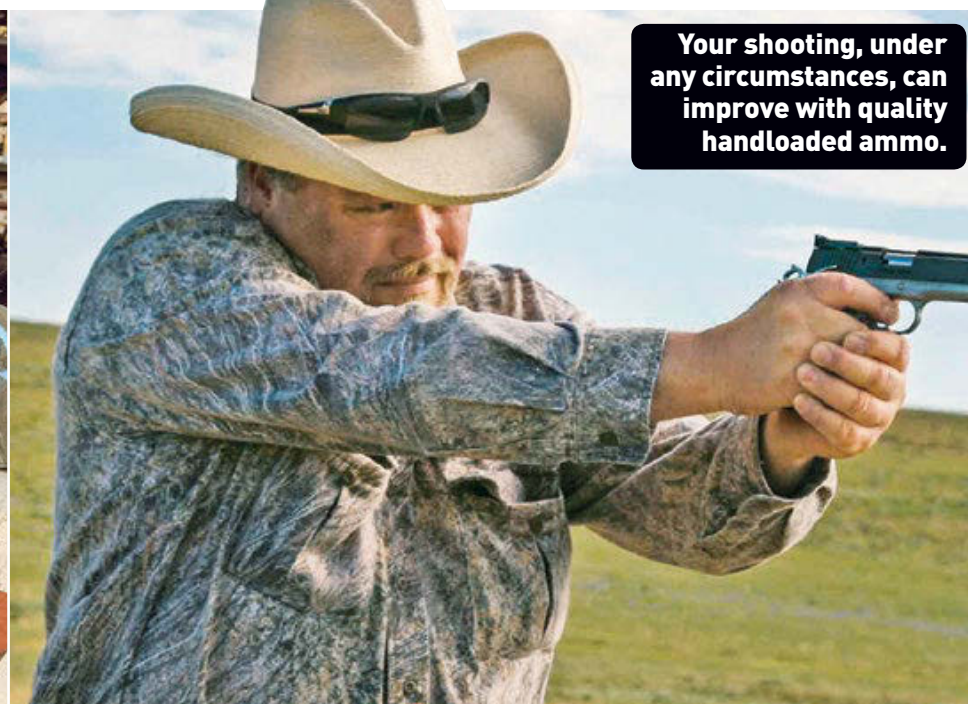
5 PRESSING MATTERS



Common-sense essentials every handloader must know before he starts rolling his own. **BY** DAVE CAMPBELL



Paying close attention as you reload will yield better ammo. If something's off, stop and find out why.



Your shooting, under any circumstances, can improve with quality handloaded ammo.

WHEN I DECIDED TO LEARN HOW TO SHOOT A HANDGUN SOME FOUR-PLUS DECADES AGO, I SIMPLY COULD NOT AFFORD TO SHOOT UNLESS I ROLLED MY OWN FODDER. During those innocent years, I loaded all of my pistol ammunition on a single-stage RCBS Rock Chucker press and cast my bullets from an old iron pot on a Coleman stove with a hand dipper. My how things have changed.

Instead of going over the fundamentals and safety procedures of the loading process, I am going to offer five tips that will increase the performance or productivity of the handloading process, or make it more cost effective. None of these are earth-shattering epiphanies; rather, they are just some common-sense tips that I have gleaned from many years of rolling my own ammunition.

1. Prep That Brass

No other part of the handloading process will take as much of your time as brass preparation. It is a constant task from the time you pick up cases from the range until you place the loaded rounds in a container. Every time you pick up a case during the loading process you should be inspecting it for everything from proper caliber to case integrity. Here are the things you should be constantly checking: chambering, case length, overall condition, cleanliness of the case, case mouth cracks, primer pocket condition and cleanliness. If you are an accuracy nut, include separating



Check closely for any cracks in your cases.

cases by manufacturer and the number of times the case has been reloaded. Be brutal in your assessment, and cull any case that is not perfect. Remember that your safety and the safety of those around you is at stake, even for practice ammunition. Trying to get just one more loading from a failing case is false economy.

This task becomes more important as you diversify your handgun chamberings. For example, I shoot a lot of .38 Special and .357 Magnum, and ditto for .44 Special and .44 Magnum. It is a constant (and sometimes futile) battle to keep the cases separated from their brethren. Run a magnum case into the belting die of the Special cartridge and you have likely just created a scrap case.

Hairline cracks are another constant bugaboo. You may think you have done an

adequate visual inspection, but when a fired case slides into your sizing die with virtually no resistance, you had better check it closely. The same holds true for primer pockets. In fact, if something feels noticeably different as you work through the loading process, stop and inspect the cartridge case closely. Something caused it to feel different, so find out what it was.

2. Go Progressive

I have waited far too long to do this, so here's one of those "Do as I say, not as I have done" moments. Now, when I say "Go progressive," I am not referring to the modern notion of political persuasions. I mean get a progressive reloading press just as soon as you can scrape together the coin. Once you learn how to use it, the time it will save you will more than make up for its cost, especially for those who shoot a lot. As a matter of fact, with today's modern progressive presses, it makes no sense to have a single-stage press unless you plan on doing rifle case reforming—i.e., necking up or necking down cases.

Even for those of us who habitually work up rifle loads by trickling in various powder charges in search of the best one, the progressive press will do that job nicely. Unless you are a constant experimenter, most of us determine the load we like and then load up a supply for our shooting needs.

All press manufacturers offer some type of progressive reloading press. I have fiddled with many of them. Any of the entry-level progressive presses cost nearly the same as a single-stage press, so it makes better sense to get the advantage of productivity.

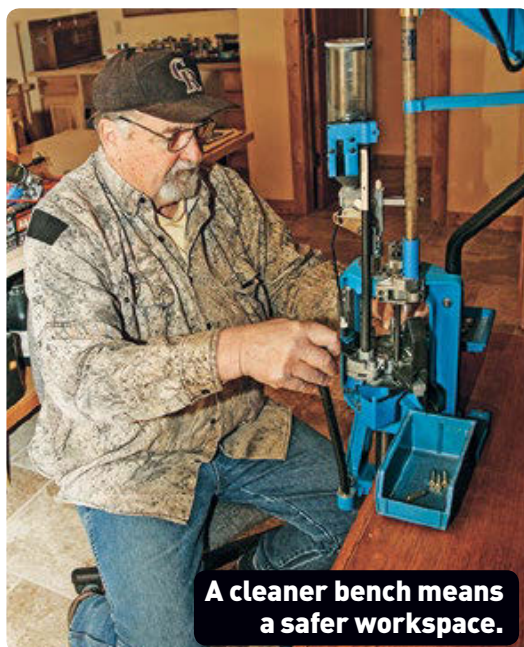
3. Keep It Clean

If you are susceptible to being worked over by the "Clutter Gods," you'll need to get over it. The reloading bench is not the place for clutter. Confusion and errors go hand in hand with clutter in your workspace, and both are an anathema to high-performance ammunition.

Cases and primer pockets need to be kept clean, too. I decap and clean all of my cases in an ultrasonic cleaner and then tumble them before resizing. There are a few reasons I do that. First, clean cases do not scratch and scar reloading



Progressive presses save time and money.



A cleaner bench means a safer workspace.

dies. My oldest dies date to 1971, and they are still as good as the day I bought them. Also, clean cases function more reliably in all repeating firearms. And lastly, clean primer pockets provide a solid base to seat primers, and they don't misfire from the ash and crud that can accumulate there.

4. Consider Casting



I am not a Glock shooter, but I am aware that cast bullets are not recommended in Glocks. However, for all other handguns, cast bullets offer a cost-effective alternative to jacketed bullets. Let's face it, for practice, do you really need those high-dollar jacketed bullets to punch holes into cardboard or ring a steel gong? My 1911s have no problem digesting cast bullets, nor do my shooting buddies who shoot other semi-autos.

For those of us who shoot revolvers, there is almost no need for jacketed bullets. I'll admit that I carry Speer Gold Dots in my J-Frame Smith & Wessons, but that's because these loads were specifically designed for 2-inch revolvers. The rest of my rather extensive revolver collection dotes exclusively on cast wadcutters and semi-wadcutters. Heavy-for-caliber semi-wadcutters are quite capable as game-takers, and I have no reluctance whatsoever in using them in a self-defense scenario.

While bullet casting requires an investment in more tooling and equipment, once it's done your cost for bullets is determined by your ability to scrounge lead and a little electricity. With jacketed

bullets costing a dollar a piece or more, cast bullets are an attractive alternative.

5. Be Picky With Powder

Like the other technology surrounding firearms, powder technology is developing rapidly. Today, we have more brands and types of powder than ever before, and the task of choosing one can be a bit daunting. Here are some parameters to keep in mind when choosing a powder.

For practice ammo, keep your loads light. Your gun will thank you by lasting longer, your hands and arms will thank you by not hurting as much and your



For practice, use light powder charges.

shooting will improve because you can focus on the fundamentals of shooting rather than how to hang on to your pistol. Light loads usually feature fast-burning powders—and not a lot of it. Faster powders create less fouling, making cleaning a lot easier as well. All other things being equal, handloaders should choose a fine-grained powder that meters accurately through a powder measure.

As I said at the beginning, these are not earth-shattering epiphanies. Rather, they are a look at the parameters that beginning or intermediate handloaders should keep in mind to ensure their ammunition meets their needs and is safe to use when they need it most. **CH**

10 TOP HANDLOADING SOURCES

Dillon Precision Products

dillonprecision.com; 800-762-3845

Forster Reloading Tools

forsterproducts.com; 815-493-6360

GSI International

gsiinternational.com

Hornady

hornady.com; 800-338-3220

Lee Precision

leeprecision.com; 262-673-3075

Lyman Products

lymanproducts.com; 800-225-9626

NEI Handtools

neihandtools.com; 915-772-0259

RCBS

rcbs.com; 800-379-1732

Redding Reloading

redding-reloading.com; 607-753-3331

Sinclair International

sinclairintl.com; 800-717-8211

RIMLESS ROCK OUT

Shooting .45 ACP through S&W's 325 is fun, especially after you master the moon clips.



BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI

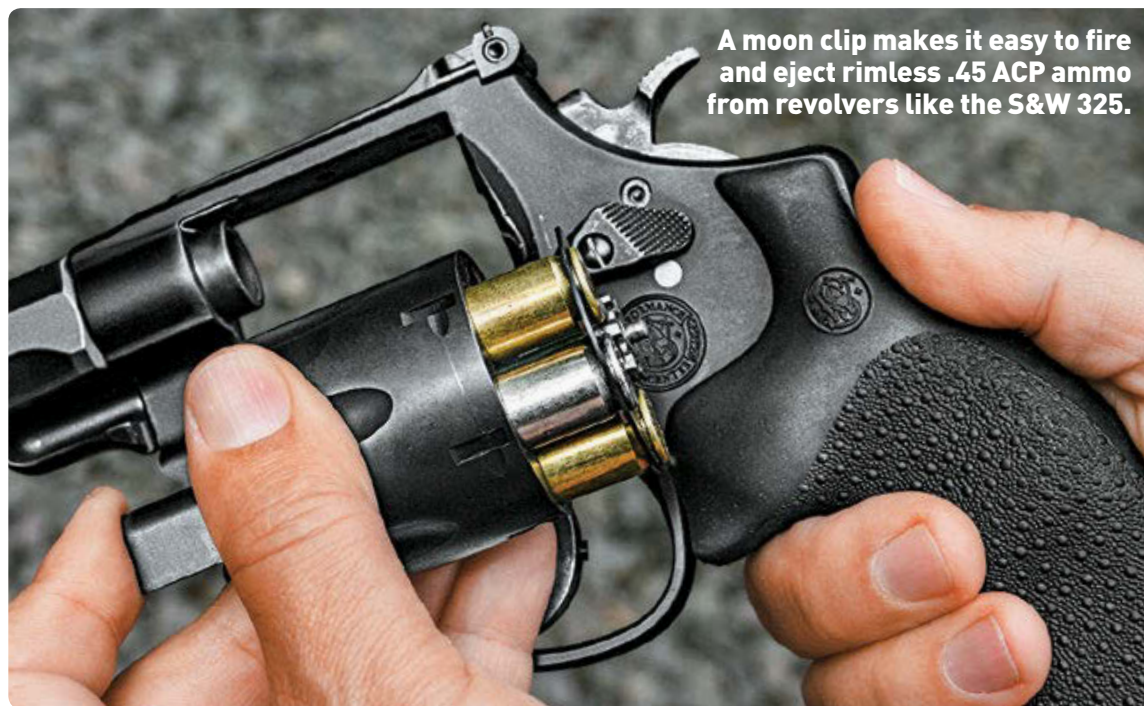
WHEN THE MODEL 1911 WAS ADOPTED BY THE U.S. ARMY, THERE WAS PLENTY OF .45 ACP AMMUNITION IN INVENTORY BUT A SHORTAGE OF ACTUAL PISTOLS.

That was an issue in 1917 when the U.S. entered World War I. While the production of 1911 pistols was just starting at the Colt plant—this was the time when Colt was the sole manufacturer of 1911 pistols—the U.S. Army came up with a solution. Since handgun manufacturing at the turn of the 20th century concentrated on revolver production, the Pentagon ordered heavy frame, six-shot revolvers chambered for .45 ACP and formerly called them “United States Revolver, Caliber .45, M1917.” Both Colt and Smith & Wesson produced variations. Colt adapted its New Service model and Smith & Wesson revamped its Second Model .44 Hand Ejector.

.45 Wheelguns

The challenge with firing rimless cartridges designed for a semi-auto pistol is the rim. Revolvers use rimmed cartridges that headspace on the rim, while rimless cartridges headspace on the case mouth. Drop a .45 ACP in the chamber of a cylinder and it will fit, but when the firing pin strikes the primer it will push the round farther into the chamber, and there will not be enough energy to indent the primer enough to set it off. S&W's solution was to use clips that held either three rounds (half-moon clip) or six rounds (full moon clip). The clips permitted the use of the rimless .45 ACP cartridges in the M1917 revolvers and also served as speedloaders. Today, revolver competitors use full moon clips exclusively in matches.

After WWI, the M1917s were rendered obsolete and sold off as surplus to civilians. The big revolvers were extremely popular with shooters, however, so much so that Peters Cartridge Co. introduced the .45 Auto Rim cartridge, a rimmed version of the .45 ACP. The .45 Auto Rim works only in revolvers and is not com-



A moon clip makes it easy to fire and eject rimless .45 ACP ammo from revolvers like the S&W 325.

patible in .45 ACP semi-auto pistols.

S&W continued to manufacture .45 ACP revolvers for civilian and law enforcement use, with the M1917 evolving into the Model 22, also called the M1950 Military. The Model 25-2 is similar to the Model 29 but chambered in .45 ACP. Other revolver manufacturers have come out with .45 ACP revolvers; Taurus chambered its Tracker in it and Ruger chambered its Blackhawk and Vaquero single-actions in the round. The most famous .45 ACP from S&W could be the Model 625, which Jerry Miculek used to set the world record for 12 rounds—he reloaded once—on target in 2.99 seconds. Current models include the Jerry Miculek Champion Series Model 625 JM, and two Performance Center models: the Model 325 Thunder Ranch and Model 625. All are six-shot, N-Frame revolvers.

Shoot The Moon

I tested a handful of full and half-moon clips from Numrich Gun Parts as well as the company's Cartridge Removal Tool. Loading the clips by hand is easy, if not tedious. Each cartridge is snapped into the U-shaped jaws of the clip. There are full moon loading tools that make the

job easier on your fingers and faster.

MoonClipTool.com's Deluxe Moon Clip Tool and the Remooner Clip Loading Tool from California Competition Works both save wear and tear on your thumbs. The half-moon clips are a bit harder to load, however, since they are half the size.

Loading moon clips is easy; the hard part is getting the empty case out of the clip. The Cartridge Removal Tool from Numrich Gun Parts is a simple piece of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 97 ▶

| PERFORMANCE | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| S&W MODEL 325 THUNDER RANCH | | |
| .45 ACP | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
| Black Hills 230 FMJ | 756 | 1.75 |
| Hornady Steel Match 230 HAP | 779 | 2.37 |
| Winchester WinClean 230 BEB | 821 | 2.50 |
| .45 AUTO RIM | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
| American Custom Ammo 200 TMP/FN/FB | 771 | 1.71 |
| BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS. | | |

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FILL 'ER UP

Master these three lifesaving reloads to keep your gun primed when seconds count!

BY FRED MASTISON PHOTOS BY STRAIGHT 8



Shooting is very similar to other martial skills. It requires that you develop an entire spectrum of abilities in order to master the art. While many shooters focus purely on accuracy, serious shooters spend time working on reloads and other mechanical skills. You can be the absolute best shooter in the world, but if you can't clear a malfunction or execute a reload your life could be at risk.

Reloads are undeniably one of the most essential skills a serious defensive shooter can have. With that in mind, we will look at three different reload techniques to help you master the skill: the emergency reload and then two versions of a tactical reload.

▼ Emergency Reload

The emergency reload has many names, but is always the same problem. The slide of the weapon is locked back and the magazine in

the gun is empty. If you are in the middle of a self-defense scenario, this is indeed an emergency. The technique to get the gun back into operation is as follows.

1. Bring the weapon up into your "work space." This is an area near your chest which allows you to more easily manipulate your weapon. You should still maintain your awareness downrange. Make sure the weapon is not past 45 degrees as it will begin to impede the drop of the exiting magazine.

2. With your firing hand, press the magazine-release button. Simultaneously, reach back with your support-side hand and index your fresh magazine. You should make an effort to get as much of your hand around the magazine as possible. The baseplate of the magazine should be in your palm. This allows for greater control of the new magazine when it comes time to insert it.

3. Pull out your new magazine and start moving it towards your gun's magazine well.

If done correctly, the new magazine and old magazine will pass in mid-air.

4. With the new mag in hand, insert the top of the magazine into the well. With one firm and smooth motion, drive the magazine into the weapon. Avoid beating on the bottom of the magazine in order to get it to seat.

5. Now that a fresh magazine is in the weapon, we need to get it back into battery. There are two methods to choose from. The first utilizes the slide stop. Point the weapon back downrange and with your support-side thumb press down on the slide lock. The spring tension in the gun will now run the slide forward and bring the gun back into battery, allowing you to fire again if needed.

A second technique is called the "sling shot." After the magazine is seated, grab the back of the slide with your support-side hand. With one quick motion pull the slide to the rear and release. The slide will now run forward and the gun will be back in battery.



▼ Tactical Reload

A tactical reload is the replacement of a partially depleted magazine with a full mag. This is only executed when it is absolutely safe to do so. If you are ever in a situation where you have had to fire your weapon, you will more than likely have no idea how many rounds you have fired. In that you should always expect multiple assailants during an attack, it is a good idea to get a full magazine into your gun as soon as possible.

One debated idea revolves around what to do with the partially depleted magazine. I believe it should be retained. Unlike competition settings, most people do not carry a large number of magazines. In fact, most people

carry only one backup mag during everyday carry. While there may not be many rounds left in the partially depleted mag, you may need them. There are two distinct schools of thought on the methodology used in tactical reloads as well. Each has its pros and cons. With that in mind, we will look at both.

One Out, One In

1. Again, bring the weapon up into your "work space." You should still maintain your awareness downrange. Make sure the weapon is not past 45 degrees, as it will begin to impede the drop of the exiting magazine. Now bring your support-side hand to the base of the magazine in the weapon.

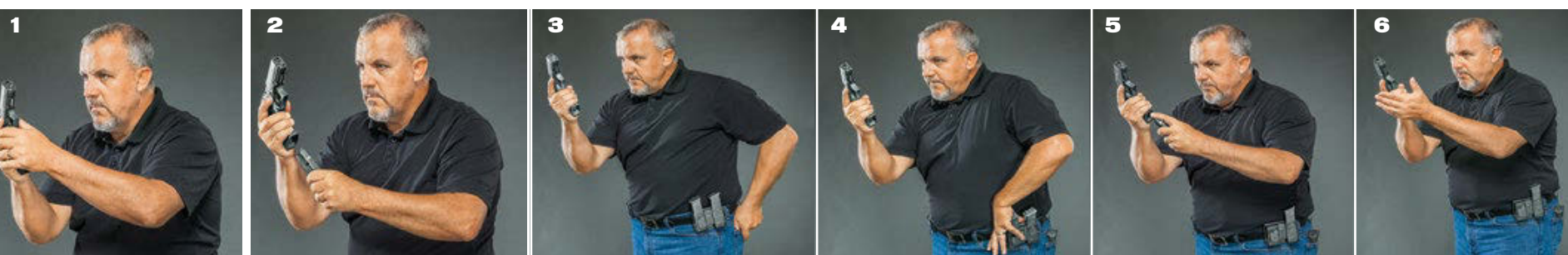
2. With your firing-side hand, press the magazine release and let the mag fall into the palm of your support-side hand.

3. Take the partially depleted magazine and place it in a pocket. Do not put a half-empty magazine back into your mag pouch!

4. Now transition your support-side hand from pocketing the old magazine to grabbing a new one from your belt or pocket.

5. Pull out your new magazine and start moving it toward the mag well.

6. With the new mag in hand, insert the top of the mag into the well. With one firm and smooth motion, drive the magazine into the weapon. Again, avoid beating on the bottom of the magazine in order to get it seated.



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▼ **Combat Reload**

1. Bring the weapon up into your “work space.” You should still maintain your awareness downrange. Make sure the weapon is not past 45 degrees as it will begin to impede the drop of the exiting magazine.

2. With the support-side hand, index a fresh magazine from your pouch and start bringing it toward the gun. The grip on this magazine will be different than in other scenarios. As opposed to being set in the center of the palm, the magazine will need to be seated between two of your fingers.

3. Once the magazine is at the base of the gun, use your firing-side thumb to release the magazine you’re going to replace.

4. Let the partially depleted magazine now drop into your palm, and hold onto it

firmly with one or two of your fingers.

5. Now angle your hand so the fresh magazine can be seated into the mag well.

6. Seat the new magazine in the weapon and pocket your old magazine.

Best Defense

The position of the fresh magazine is debatable. Some advocate putting it between the pinky and ring finger, while others teach index and middle finger. The factor that will influence your decision on this is the size of your hands and your dexterity. When choosing the technique that suits you best, you must explore the fundamental pros and cons of each technique. The “One Out, One In” technique is easy to execute but does leave the weapon without a magazine for a longer

period of time. The “Combat” version does allow less time without a magazine in the gun, but it requires decent dexterity and hand size. The “Combat” reload was created when the most common weapon was the Model 1911. Slender single-stack magazines are much easier to manipulate than modern double-stack polymer magazines. In the end, you should try both and find the technique that works best for you.


The ability to shoot accurately and quickly is undeniably an essential skill in the defensive firearms world. Equally important, however, is the ability to keep your gun in the fight. You should be as diligent with mechanical manipulations as you are with accuracy training. Only through this can you become a master of the defensive handgun. **CD**




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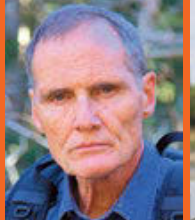
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Robert T. Briskey, Battle Hen Armory

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DRD TACTICAL'S STOW

The CDR15's upper and lower receivers are machined from a billet of 7075-T6 aluminum for strength and lightweight. Note the finger rest near the magazine release.



From briefcase to accurate 5.56mm heat in 21 seconds flat, the CDR15 is like no other AR pistol of its kind!

GO DEFENDER

BY DENNIS ADLER



A TAKEDOWN AR-15 PISTOL THAT FITS INTO A BRIEFCASE WOULD BE INDISPENSABLE IF ONE WERE WRITING A SPY NOVEL.

In reality, you don't need to be Ian Fleming or Robert Ludlum to conjure up such guns. The latest DRD CDR15 Pistol is a three-piece takedown firearm that comes in an unobtrusive, Royal Case Co. fitted carry case that's ruggedly built to take a world of abuse and keep its contents safe and ready to be assembled when needed, even if it's only at the local shooting range and not some dimly lighted alleyway in Istanbul.

The CDR15 is a finely crafted takedown AR-15 that, in its new pistol version, allows for any accessory buildup desired, from basic BUIS mounted to the integrated Picatinny top rail, to optics,

and tactical lights and lasers, which can be affixed to the takedown barrel's removable handguard rails.

COMPACT POWER

A comparatively new manufacturer in the AR-15 marketplace, DRD Tactical was established in Dallas, Georgia, in 2010. The custom rifle-maker has come a long way in just five years by building high-quality, innovative takedown rifles and pistols. DRD's takedown rifle concept was originally developed for consideration in the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) Clandestine Break-Down Rifle proposal. DRD Tactical eventually built a commercial semi-automatic version and recently added the takedown pistol. According to the company, the CDR15

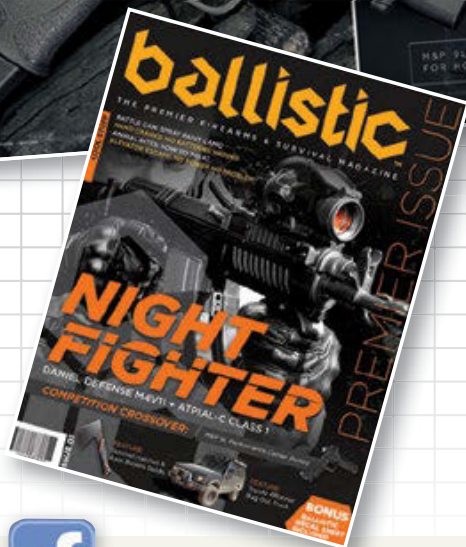
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SPECIFICATIONS

DRD TACTICAL CDR15 PISTOL

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Caliber | 5.56mm |
| Barrel | 10.5 inches |
| OA Length | 26.87 inches |
| Weight | 5.2 pounds |
| Grips | Polymer |
| Sights | Optics ready |
| Action | Direct impingement semi-auto |
| Finish | Matte black |
| Capacity | 30+1 |
| MSRP | \$995 |

Pistol is the first and only takedown version of its kind. It uses a patented threaded collar to secure the barrel to the upper receiver, and a patented quick-lock removable handguard over the barrel that takes assembly time down to less than 30 seconds! The standard-length barrels for the pistol version are 10.5 and 11.5 inches. The model I tested came with the shorter 10.5-inch barrel.

DRD Tactical specializes in takedown or briefcase rifles and pistols as well as custom-built AR-15 upper and lower receivers, all of which are manufactured in Georgia. For the CDR15 Pistol, the upper and lower receivers are machined from 7075 T-6511 billet aluminum for strength and a light overall weight, with the pistol averaging 5.2 pounds with an empty magazine. Overall length of the CDR15 Pistols, including the 10.5-inch barrel, muzzle-brake flash suppressor and fluted carbine buffer tube, is 26.87 inches, making this a very maneuverable AR-15 pistol for close-quarters defensive use. The DRD Tactical pistol is well



The handguard features short rail sections at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock for lights and lasers, like this Walther XRL 635 unit.

The briefcase pistol has three major components: the receiver, barrel and handguard.

suited for use by protection details where an AR-15 tactical carbine (takedown or otherwise) might not be practical for security personnel. The compact size and easy takedown/assembly definitely make this an interesting option for any number of tactical deployments.

In the civilian world, AR-15 pistols have grown exponentially in popularity over the last few years, but until this point DRD Tactical had confined its designs to rifles. The pistol, which can be carried disassembled in a variety of ways dictated by the level of security and concealment required, is unique in this category of takedown AR platform.

The CDR15 can be taken down and stored in two or three pieces, the latter being advisable for speed of assembly by already having the handguard removed from the barrel so all three pieces—lower and upper receiver unit, barrel and handguard—can be quickly accessed and assembled in order. The carrying case design allows for multiple arrangements as well as storage for two 30-round magazines, ammunition and optics, which, depending upon size and mounting position, can be left attached to the pistol's upper receiver.

● MORE DRD DETAILS

All AR-15 pistols with traditional operating systems and carbine-length buffer

The CDR15 Pistol's ease of assembly and compact size make it ideal for a variety of tactical missions.

tubes handle similarly to an SBR, minus the shoulder stock. This AR pistol uses a carbine-length direct gas system, a Colt-style cast aluminum charging handle and a single (reversible) thumb safety. The lower receiver is a DRD Tactical design with a distinctive contour that creates a trigger-finger rest that also allows quick access to the magazine release. It is a very clean and efficient design. As for durability, the entire pistol has a non-reflective hardcoat anodized black finish that stands up to abuse.

The CDR15 Pistol comes with a standard AR-15 trigger. It has a long, crisp pull that averaged 6.6 pounds on a Lyman trigger-pull gauge. Overall, the gun has

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The top rail provides plenty of space for optics, like the Aimpoint Micro H-1.

“As a weapon destined for close-quarters battle, the CDR15 Pistol would be an ideal choice when equipped with optics and a laser sight.”

modest recoil with most ammunition, and the rounded and deeply fluted buffer tube is not abrasive should it come in contact with your cheek. The standard pistol grip is an excellent checkered and fluted M16A2 design, which provides a finger groove for a more secure grasp of the lightweight CDR15 Pistol.

The takedown and assembly process is well engineered and centered around DRD Tactical's patented quick-release handguard (which can be fitted with three 4-inch Magpul L4 accessory rails included with the gun) and the barrel's threaded mounting collar. With the CDR15 Pistol unloaded and cleared (the bolt locked back and magazine removed), the process, either when assembling or taking the gun down, begins with opening the handguard's quick-release lever and pulling the locking pin. This allows the handguard, rails and any attached accessories to be slipped off the barrel assembly. For takedown, unscrew

| PERFORMANCE | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| DRD TACTICAL CDR15 PISTOL 5.56mm | | |
| LOAD | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
| Federal American Eagle 55 FMJ | 2,530 | 1.12 |
| HPR Black Ops 62 OTF | 2,428 | 1.12 |
| Winchester Target 55 FMJ | 2,805 | 1.35 |
| BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS. | | |

the threaded collar and pull the barrel assembly from the receiver. Reverse the process to assemble. My average time is 21 seconds for assembly and 17 seconds for disassembly beginning with the gun at the ready position, the magazine removed and the bolt locked back. Add a few more seconds for clearing the gun and (for assembly) removing the components from the carrying case and you are still at about 30 seconds.

Since the CDR15 Pistol does not come with sights, I opted to go right for optics, fitting the gun's 7-inch receiver rail with an Aimpoint Micro H-1 on a Micro LRP quick-release mount. The Micro LRP not only facilitates quick mounting but raises the Micro H-1 high enough that backup iron sights can be used to co-witness the target. The Micro H-1 is an ideal red dot for AR-15 pistols and even more so with the CDR15 Pistol, as it is compact enough (2.4 by 2.4 by 1.6 inches with a quick-release mount) to be left attached to the upper receiver in the carry case. The Micro H-1 has unlimited eye relief and 12 adjustable brightness settings for the red dot (in 2 or 4 MOA). In addition, the unit's caps that cover the adjustment knobs can be used to adjust the sights. No tools required, not even the edge of shell case.

● RANGE MISSION

Tests were done from a semi-rested position at a distance of 25 yards from the target. For accuracy, I opted to keep all tests confined to this protocol, rather than going off-hand and engaging targets at varying distances. Three premium brands of ammunition were selected: Winchester Target 55-grain FMJs, Federal American Eagle 55-grain FMJs and HPR Black Ops 62-grain OTF rounds. The Black Ops clocked 2,428 feet per second (fps) from the pistol's 10.5-inch, 4140 steel, Melonite-coated barrel, while American Eagle cleared the ProChrono chronograph traps at 2,530 fps and Winchester's Target load clocked an impressive 2,805 fps average.

After sighting in the Micro H-1, range



The CDR15 Pistol has standard AR controls, an enlarged triggerguard for glove use and a checkered A2-style pistol grip.

tests were fired in five-round groups with each brand of ammunition. Using the test bench as an elbow rest, the test groups were fired with the support hand grasping the magazine well. Groups continually averaged under 2 inches. Best five-round groups were achieved with American Eagle's 55-grain FMJ and HPR's 62-grain OTF, the only frangible round used in the test. Both brands placed all shots at 1.12 inches with overlapping pairs. The best five rounds of the Winchester Target load measured 1.35 inches.

In the real world, resting your support-hand elbow on a hard surface for stability might not be an option, but knowing that the pistol is capable of such accuracy, under less than ideal conditions, you are still able to get threat-stopping accuracy. With the 10.5-inch barrel, the CDR15 Pistol was well balanced for an AR-15 pistol and consistently on target at 25 yards. As a weapon destined for close-quarters battle, the CDR15 Pistol would be an ideal choice when equipped with optics and a laser sight.

● THE TAKEAWAY

AR-15 pistols are not right for every circumstance, but for personal protection use, whether at home, in the field or on the job, they provide an option few firearms can offer—compact size combined with the reliable and effective firepower of an AR-15 rifle. DRD Tactical takes it one step further by making the CDR15 Pistol an easily stored and transported takedown pistol that can be made ready in 30 seconds or less. It will take some time to raise that bar. For more information, visit drdtactical.com. **CH**

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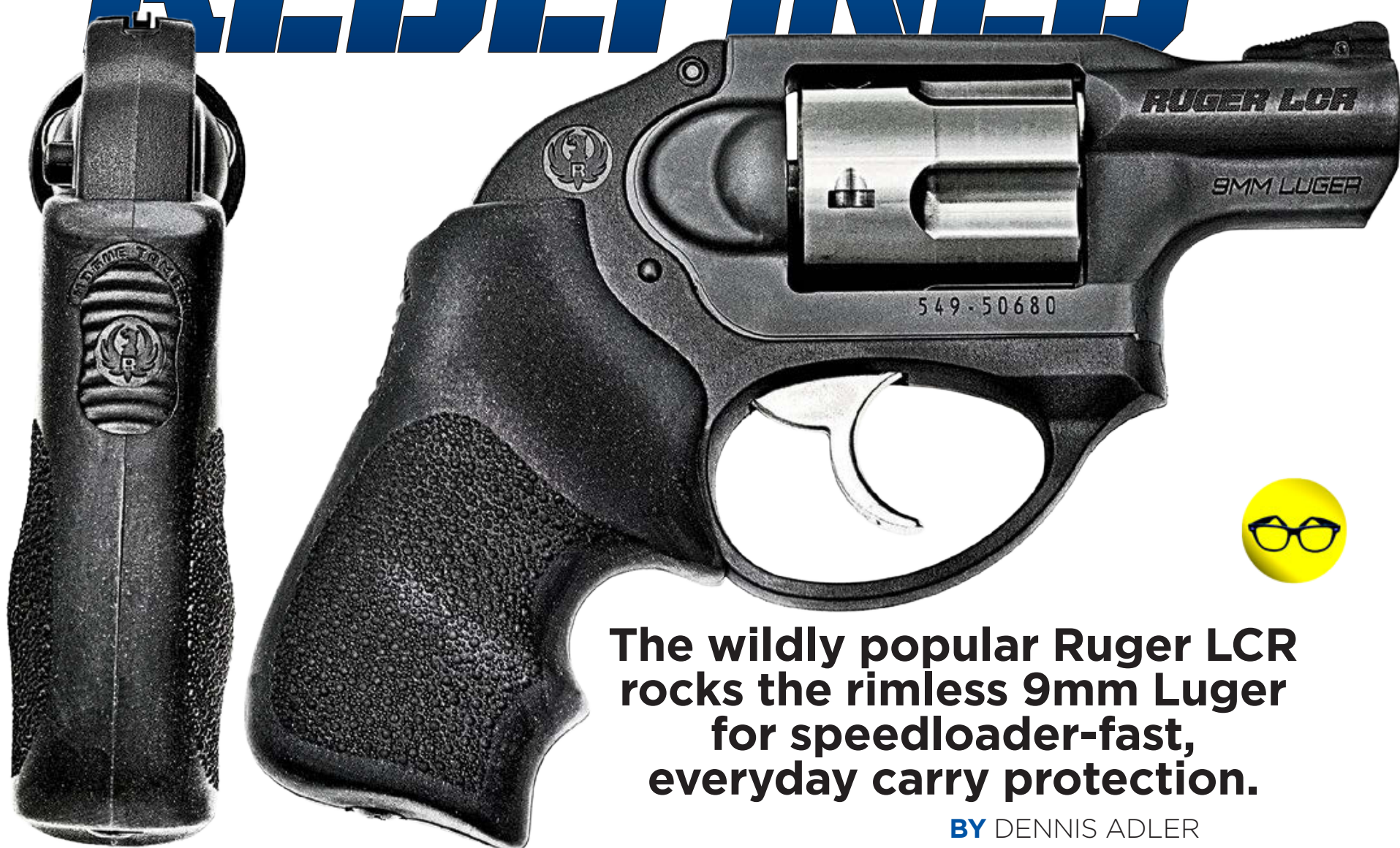
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SMALLER REDEFINED



The wildly popular Ruger LCR rocks the rimless 9mm Luger for speedloader-fast, everyday carry protection.

BY DENNIS ADLER

IT IS DIFFICULT TO COMPARE THE RUGER LCR (LIGHT COMPACT REVOLVER) IN ANY CALIBER WITH ANY OTHER SNUB-NOSE REVOLVER ON THE MARKET because there isn't any other revolver made like the LCR. The 9mm model is compact, lightweight and, like all of the other LCR models in .22 LR, .22 Magnum, .38 Special +P and .357 Magnum, has literally rewritten the book on how revolvers are built.

While the LCR is still fundamentally the same concept as any other wheelgun, the Ruger takes a novel approach in its multi-platform construction and assembly. The LCR's design began with a clean sheet of paper, one on which Ruger's design and engineering team drafted a totally new way to build a revolver. The first LCR model (.38 Special +P) became one of the most popular concealed-carry models on the market in its first year of manufacture. The later .357 Magnum

version gave up little to its .38 Special +P counterpart in terms of weight or recoil management, and the recent .22 models have added even more versatility to the line. The 9mm model, however, opens a door no LCR has walked through before—using the same ammunition as a semi-auto pistol.

9mm Upgrade

The LCR is comprised of three major build components: a stainless steel cylinder frame sub-assembly with the barrel shroud being an integral part of the frame, a polymer fire control housing that contains the trigger, hammer, sear and mainspring, and a cylinder/crane sub-assembly. The stainless steel cylinder frame sub-assembly is actually the serial-numbered portion of the gun and is defined as a "firearm" by law; everything that surrounds it is removable.

The large Hogue Tamer rubber Monogrips, which are secured to the fire control housing grip peg by a single screw through the base, fill the hand without becoming a burden for concealed carry, even in a pocket holster. The contoured Hogue grips and LCR frame design give the strong hand plenty of gripping area, a thumb rest and enough triggerguard to allow a solid two-handed hold. The fully shrouded hammer also streamlines the Ruger for snag-free carry and draw.

The new five-shot 9mm LCR model tips the scales at 17.2 ounces. With the shrouded, 1.875-inch barrel, the gun has an overall length of 6.5 inches, a height of 4.5 inches and a width of 1.28 inches. The exterior dimensions are identical to the .38 Special +P version, but the 9mm is 3.7 ounces heavier, about the same as the .357 Magnum LCR. The additional weight

goes into the barrel, the re-contoured five-round 9mm cylinder, the front latch inner spring, the stainless steel (rather than aluminum) cylinder/frame assembly, the cylinder/crane assembly, the center locking pin and cylinder sub-assembly, all of which have been strengthened or modified to counter the greater pressures and recoil of 9mm cartridges.

Due to the LCR's unique shape and deep, curved triggerguard, most holsters that would accommodate an S&W J-Frame-sized gun won't work, however there are now a number of holsters made specifically for LCR models. For pocket carry, I tried the new Tuff Products 5075-TTA-10 designed for the general dimensions of J-Frame revolvers, the LCR and S&W 340PD. This is a slightly larger design than some J-Frame pocket holsters with a less defined contour, a smooth nylon interior for easy draw and a fabric-grabbing, non-slip laminate exterior that keeps the holster secured and upright in the pocket.

The Firing Line

The switch from .38 Special +P to a 9mm is not a big one. Actually, it is a shorter cartridge (1.169 inches in length versus 1.55 inches for a .38 Special) but with higher velocity. The greater advantage is that 9mm is the most common pistol cartridge in use the world over both by civilians and the military, including NATO troops and U.S. forces.

For a small, lightweight revolver, the LCR is well balanced with a long but smooth double-action-only (DAO) trigger pull that averaged 9.3 pounds. The LCR's deeply curved trigger travels 0.875 inches to rotate the cylinder (counterclockwise) and cycle the shrouded internal hammer. The trigger mechanism is designed to generate less friction than traditional DAO revolvers, thereby mitigating some of the resistance (stacking) generally experienced in firing compact double actions, and with practice, the trigger pull becomes very predictable. The gun is equipped with a standard notched rear sight channel and a new ramped front sight with a white insert for improved target acquisition. This new design is definitely preferable to the black front ramped sight on other LCR models and made target acquisition quicker.

Test ammo ranged from a traditional weight 9mm 115-grain Speer Gold Dot GDHP to slightly heavier 124-grain Sig Sauer Elite Performance V-Crown JHP and Hornady's heavyweight 135-grain Critical Duty FlexLock rounds. All three are excellent choices in a 9mm semi-auto

The five-shot, stainless steel cylinder, made specifically for the 9mm model, uses moon clips for quickly loading rounds and ejecting spent cases.



SPECIFICATIONS

RUGER LCR

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Caliber | 9mm |
| Barrel | 1.875 inches |
| OA Length | 6.5 inches |
| Weight | 17.2 ounces (empty) |
| Grips | Hogue Tamer Monogrip |
| Sights | Front ramp, notch rear |
| Action | DAO |
| Finish | Ionbond Diamondblack |
| Capacity | 5 |
| MSRP | \$619 |

PERFORMANCE

RUGER LCR 9mm

| LOAD | VELOCITY | ACCURACY |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Hornady 135 Critical Duty FlexLock | 1,010 | 2.25 |
| Sig Sauer Elite Performance 124 JHP | 1,027 | 1.75 |
| Speer Gold Dot 115 GDHP | 1,096 | 2.50 |

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 7 YARDS.

and putting them through a sub-2-inch snub-nose revolver is enlightening.

For speed loading and ease of case extraction, the LCR 9mm comes with three full moon clips. The Ruger's cylinder is also very easy to open with a single inward press of the crane latch, rather than having to slide it forward or back as on most revolvers. On the test range, Speer Gold Dot clocked 1,096 fps through the ProChrono chronograph's traps, with Sig Sauer traveling downrange at 1,027 fps and Hornady Critical Duty slamming rounds into the target at 1,010 fps.

While delivering significant recoil, all three rounds offered consistent accuracy at a test distance of 7 yards. All tests



At 7 yards, the best five-shot group measured 1.75 inches.

were done using a Weaver stance, a two-handed hold and firing at one-second intervals. The best five-round groups on a B-27 silhouette placed in front of a Target Shooting Solutions BCS-36 bullet trap measured 1.75 inches with Sig Sauer, 2.5 inches with Speer (two overlapping and four of five at 2 inches) while the Hornady ammo placed five rounds at an evenly spaced 2.25 inches.

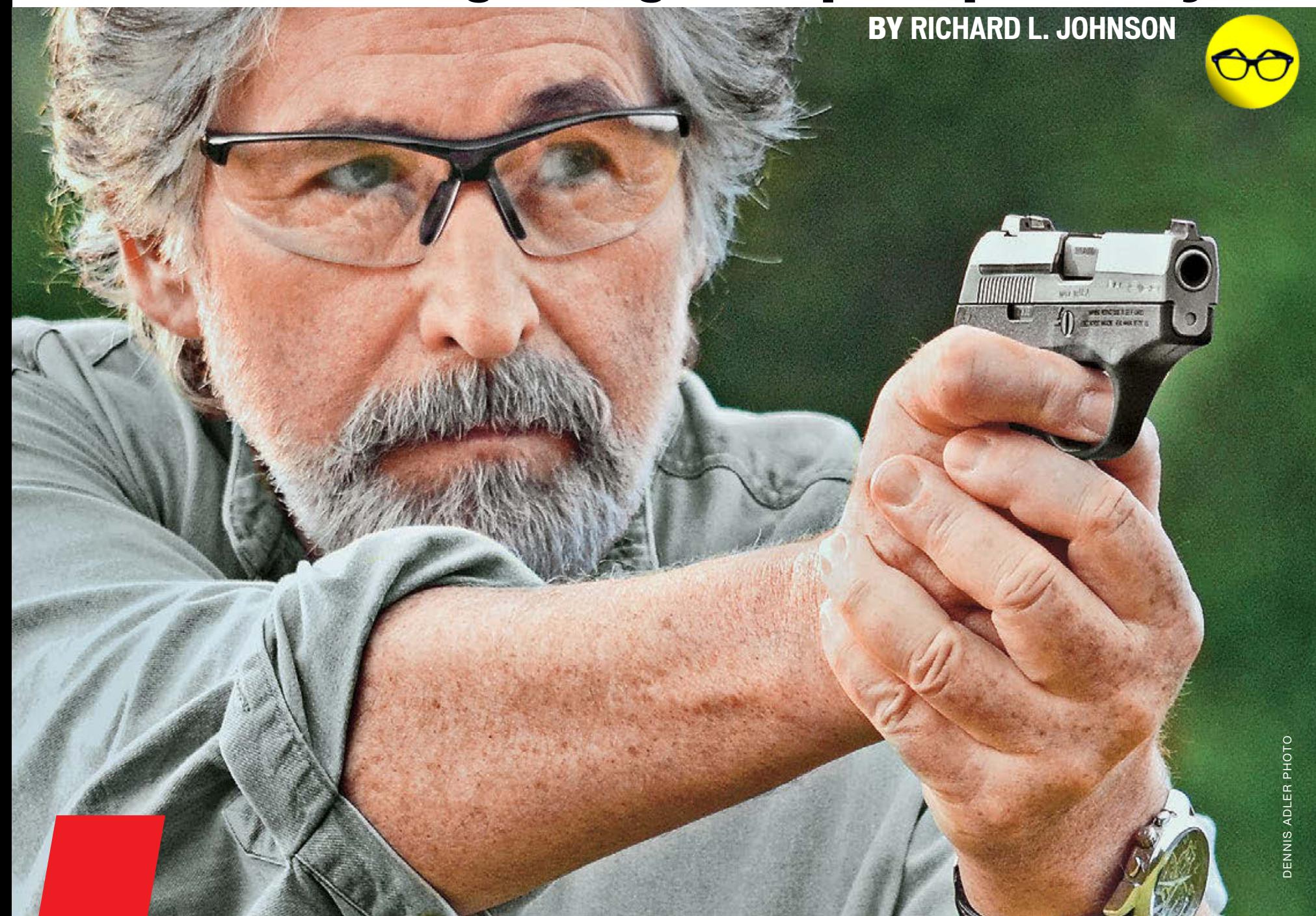
Semi-Auto Sidekick

Recoil with 9mm defensive rounds, compared to .38 Special +P, is slightly more demanding of the shooter. Given the LCR 9mm's additional weight and the fact that this particular frame configuration was also designed to withstand .357 Magnum rounds, the hottest 9mm can still make this a more manageable handgun than many lighter-weight .38 Special and .357 Mag snub-nose revolvers. It's not much to give up a few added ounces of carry weight on this LCR version when you are already dealing with a lightweight compact revolver, and the ability to use the same ammo as a larger semi-auto duty or concealed-carry gun makes this latest LCR a very prudent option. For more information, visit ruger.com. **CH**

SWEET SIXTEEN

**A roundup of sub-\$450 firearms
that are lightweights in price point only!**

BY RICHARD L. JOHNSON



DENNIS ADLER PHOTO

IN HARD TIMES, THE NEED FOR SELF-DEFENSE BECOMES ALL THE MORE REAL. HOME INVASIONS, CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND OUTLAWS LOOKING FOR A QUICK SCORE ALL SEEM TO BE AN INCREASED THREAT.

Citizens not only have the right to defend themselves, but the absolute duty to do so. Buying a handgun—combined with good training and an understanding of the law—is a good step toward providing for your family's safety should a two-legged predator come around.

The gun you select will vary based on a number of factors, such as its intended purpose, which could be concealed carry or home defense. Car-building icon Henry Ford achieved monumental success by bringing high-quality rides to the masses while nailing the ultimate factor for us regular folks—price point! Price is often the limiting factor as the family budget has to keep food on the table. The following handguns are quality self-defense choices, each with a retail price of less than \$450.

“I will build a car for the great multitude...constructed of the best materials, by the best men to be hired, after the simplest designs that modern engineering can devise. But it will be so low in price that no man making a good salary will be unable to own one...”

—HENRY FORD, *MY LIFE AND WORK*



BERETTA NANO

When it designed the Nano, Beretta reimagined the concealed-carry pistol. These striker-fired guns have been contoured to prevent snagging on clothing during the draw, and have a width of only 0.9 inches. Chambered in 9mm, the Nano comes with six- and eight-round magazines. Additionally, the frames can be quickly swapped out for the shooter's preferences. (berettausa.com; 800-929-2901)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm

Barrel ▶ 3.07 inches

Weight ▶ 19.8 ounces

Capacity ▶ 6+1, 8+1

MSRP ▶ \$445



BERETTA PICO

At only 0.72 inches wide, the Pico is the thinnest pistol in this list. Combined with its 11.5-ounce weight and melted edges, the Pico is extremely easy to carry and to conceal. The gun is chambered in .380 ACP and holds six rounds in its standard magazine. The Pico also features a double-action-only trigger. (berettausa.com; 800-929-2901)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ .380 ACP

Barrel ▶ 2.7 inches

Weight ▶ 11.5 ounces

Capacity ▶ 6+1

MSRP ▶ \$398



BERSA BP9CC

The BP9CC is a thin, single-stack 9mm pistol that is easy to shoot and affordably priced. It has a full-length polymer frame, allowing for a good grip when shooting, plus it allows eight rounds in a standard magazine. Bersa uses a short-reset, precocked striker-fired trigger system with a crisp break and a fast reset. (bersa.com; 732-493-0333)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm

Barrel ▶ 3.3 inches

Weight ▶ 21.5 ounces

Capacity ▶ 8+1

MSRP ▶ \$430



CHARTER ARMS BULLDOG

Wheelguns, especially those chambered in .44 Special, continue to be a formidable tool with which you can defend your life. This five-shot revolver offers a full grip with a large front ramp sight to help put rounds on target. The Bulldog also has an exposed hammer, though double-action-only models are available. (charterfirearms.com; 203-922-1652)

Specifications

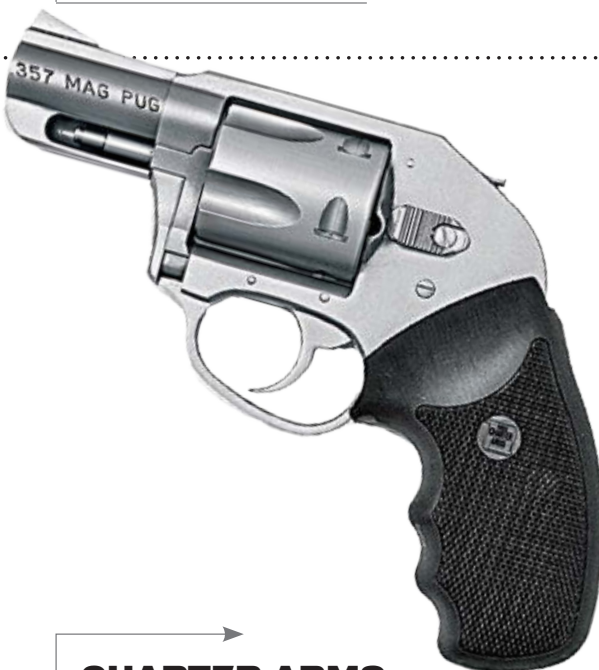
Caliber ▶ .44 Special

Barrel ▶ 2.5 inches

Weight ▶ 21 ounces

Capacity ▶ 5

MSRP ▶ \$405



CHARTER ARMS MAG PUG ON DUTY

Chambered for the legendary .357 Magnum, the Mag Pug On Duty is a compact, five-shot revolver with a 2.2-inch barrel and fixed sights. To help with recoil, the barrel is ported. Charter Arms builds this gun with a partial hammer shroud to prevent the gun from snagging when drawn. (charterfirearms.com; 203-922-1652)

Specifications

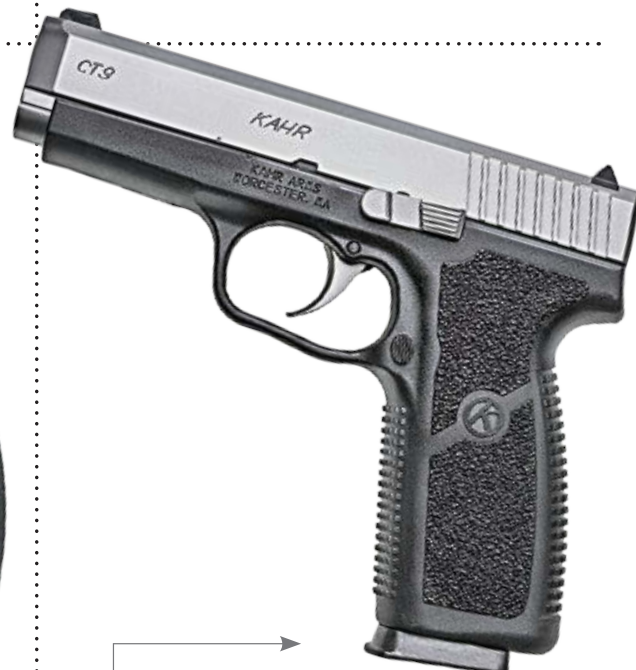
Caliber ▶ .357 Mag

Barrel ▶ 2.2 inches

Weight ▶ 23 ounces

Capacity ▶ 5

MSRP ▶ \$398



KAHR CT9

Large enough to obtain a full grip, the Kahr CT9 has a 4-inch barrel and holds eight rounds in its standard magazine. The 18.5-ounce gun remains thin, however, at just 0.9 inches at the slide, making it easier to conceal. A matte stainless finish and black polymer frame combine for an appealing two-tone look. (kahr.com; 508-795-3919)

Specifications

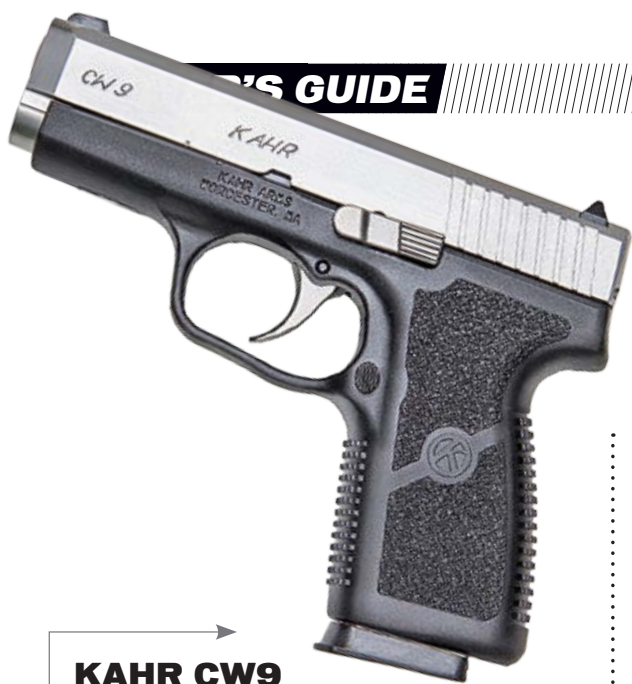
Caliber ▶ 9mm

Barrel ▶ 3.965 inches

Weight ▶ 18.5 ounces

Capacity ▶ 8+1

MSRP ▶ \$449



KAHR CW9

Thin and compact, the polymer-framed CW9 is a single-stack 9mm that holds seven rounds in the magazine. A smooth trigger pull and 3.6-inch barrel contribute to the gun's very good accuracy. Unloaded, the gun weighs less than a pound, yet its recoil is not harsh. (kahr.com; 508-795-3919)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm

Barrel ▶ 3.6 inches

Weight ▶ 15.8 ounces

Capacity ▶ 7+1

MSRP ▶ \$449



KEL-TEC P-3AT

One of the more popular subcompact pistols on the market, the P-3AT is a polymer-framed, double-action-only pistol chambered in .380 ACP. Weighing only 8.3 ounces unloaded, this 2.7-inch-barreled gun can easily slip into a pocket and be carried very discreetly. The pistol's standard magazines hold six rounds of .380 ammo. (keltecweapons.com; 321-631-0068)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ .380 ACP

Barrel ▶ 2.7 inches

Weight ▶ 8.3 ounces

Capacity ▶ 6+1

MSRP ▶ \$318



KEL-TEC PF-9

Packing 7+1 rounds in its 0.88-inch-wide frame, the Kel-Tec PF-9 is a popular concealed-carry pistol chambered in 9mm. Even with its small size, the gun has useable sights and an accessory rail. Though it is one of the lightest 9mm pistols on the market, the gun is rated to handle +P ammunition. (keltecweapons.com; 321-631-0068)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm

Barrel ▶ 3.1 inches

Weight ▶ 12.7 ounces

Capacity ▶ 7+1

MSRP ▶ \$333



RUGER LC9S

Updated to include a striker-fired system, the 3.12-inch-barreled Ruger LC9s is an easy-to-carry 9mm pistol that is less than 1 inch thick. It holds seven rounds in the magazine and is fitted with adjustable three-dot sights. Unloaded, the gun weighs 17.2 ounces. (ruger.com)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm

Barrel ▶ 3.12 inches

Weight ▶ 17.2 ounces

Capacity ▶ 7+1

MSRP ▶ \$449



RUGER SR9E

A full-size 9mm pistol, the SR9E is a budget-conscious pistol for home defense and other self-defense needs. The double-stack magazines hold 17 rounds and the gun comes fitted with large, three-dot sights. An accessory rail is also standard on the 27.2-ounce SR9E. (ruger.com)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm

Barrel ▶ 4.14 inches

Weight ▶ 27.2 ounces

Capacity ▶ 10+1, 17+1

MSRP ▶ \$429



SCCY CPX-2

It is hard to beat the value of the SCCY CPX-2 pistol for concealed carry. This 9mm double-action pistol is light on price and weight. The gun comes with three-dot sights and a pair of 10-round magazines. Even with double-stack magazines, the gun is only 1 inch wide and weighs 15 ounces unloaded. (sccy.com; 866-729-7599)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm

Barrel ▶ 3.1 inches

Weight ▶ 15 ounces

Capacity ▶ 10+1

MSRP ▶ \$314



SMITH & WESSON SD40 VE

One of the best values among full-size handguns is the SD40 VE from Smith & Wesson. Chambered for the .40 S&W, this 14+1 pistol comes with three-dot sights, an accessory rail and a lifetime service policy. These striker-fired pistols can also be had in 9mm with a 16+1 capacity. (smith-wesson.com; 800-331-0852)

Specifications

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Caliber | ► .40 S&W |
| Barrel | ► 4 inches |
| Weight | ► 22.7 ounces |
| Capacity | ► 14+1 |
| MSRP | ► \$389 |



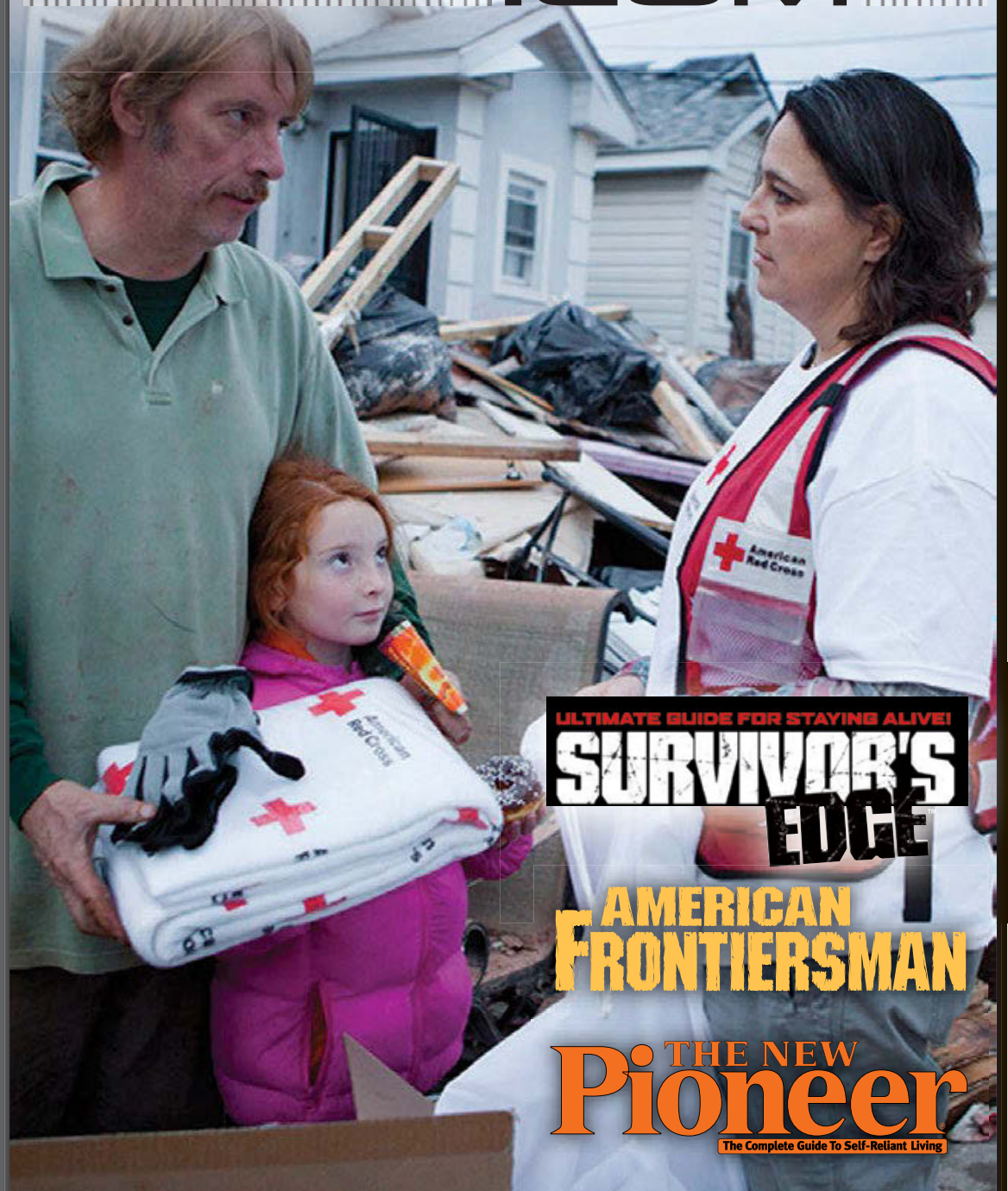
SMITH & WESSON M&P SHIELD

If you are looking for a concealed-carry pistol with a good balance between shootability and concealability, take a look at the Smith & Wesson M&P Shield. Thin and light, they are nonetheless very accurate pistols. The guns are available in both 9mm and .40 S&W, with seven- and six-round magazines respectively. (smith-wesson.com; 800-331-0852)

Specifications

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| Caliber | ► 9mm, .40 S&W |
| Barrel | ► 3.1 inches |
| Weight | ► 19 ounces |
| Capacity | ► 7+1, 6+1 |
| MSRP | ► \$449 |

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TAURUS PT140 MILLENNIUM G2

Chambered in .40 S&W, the PT140 Millennium G2 is an updated version of the company's popular double-stack, compact pistol. Offering double-action/single action operation, it holds 10 rounds in the magazine. The barrel length is 3.2 inches, and the gun weighs 22 ounces unloaded. (taurususa.com; 800-327-3776)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ .40

Barrel ▶ 3.2 inches

Weight ▶ 22 ounces

Capacity ▶ 10+1

MSRP ▶ \$435



WALTHER PPX

Available in both 9mm and .40 S&W, the PPX is an exceptional value in a home-defense pistol. This full-size handgun has large sights, an ergonomic grip and up to 16 rounds of ammunition in each magazine. In addition to its 4-inch barrel, the pistol's accessory rail allows for the addition of a white light or laser. (waltherarms.com; 479-242-8500)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm, .40 S&W

Barrel ▶ 4 inches

Weight ▶ 27.2 ounces

Capacity ▶ 14+1, 16+1

MSRP ▶ \$449

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MAGLULA RANGE BENCHLOADER

For AR-pistol and standard AR-15 shooters, Maglula has released the Range BenchLoader, a heavy-duty 5.56mm/.223 Rem 30-round magazine loader compatible with the AR platform. The injection-molded loader has rugged construction for daily loading of hundreds of magazines with ease and comfort. It totally eliminates the risk of finger injury, shortens loading time and keeps magazine lips intact. The design is made from reinforced polymer and features only one moving part. No maintenance and virtually no cleaning is required. A Cordura™ carry bag is provided with each loader. (maglula.com)

DECAL GRIP TAPE

Decal Grip is a pre-cut grip tape that allows shooters to customize and enhance their handgun's grips. The tape consists of pre-cut panels with adhesive backing that attach to the frame and slide for a superior grip in extreme weather conditions, all without increasing a handgun's bulk. The tape is easy to install and resistant to most gun solvents and oils. Decal Grip is also simple to replace if a different grip configuration is desired. Packages are available for Glock pistols (including the G42), the Heckler & Koch USP, Springfield Armory's XD series and more! (decalgrip.com)



RSW TARGET STANDS

RSW Industries now offers all-steel, compact, collapsible target stands for target training. These stands are lightweight, easy to stow and carry the necessary support for steel hanger targets. Made in America, each stand will hold two steel hanger targets, a piece of plywood or a sheet of cardboard for shooting at paper targets. The stands come pre-assembled so you can start shooting within minutes by simply pinning the two sections together, lowering the support legs and hanging your targets. RSW also has AR500 steel and A36 mild steel target products available for use with this stand. (rswindustries.com; 814-452-6548)

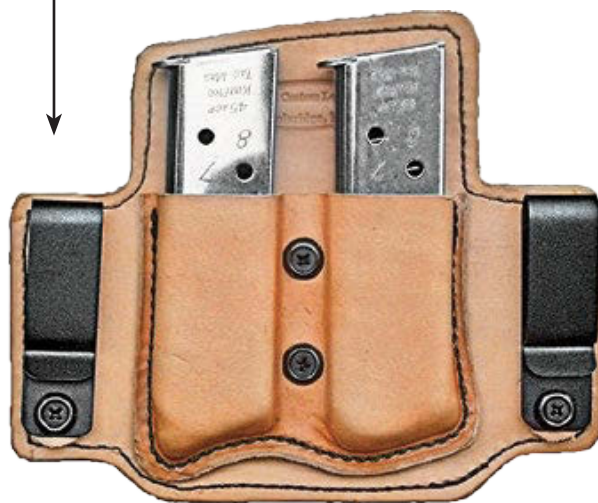


SAFARILAND 537 GLS & 547 PRD HOLSTERS

Safariland has introduced two new offerings in its Open Top Concealment Belt Slide Holsters lineup, the 537 GLS and the 547 PRD. The 537 GLS features Safariland's unique Grip Lock System (GLS), which automatically secures a handgun when holstered and releases it upon application of the middle finger with a standard shooting grip. The holster features tension adjustment for tailoring handgun fit and a soft, flexible holster body. The 547 PRD is engineered with a low profile and wide weight disbursement for comfort and concealability. The Pinch Retention Device (PRD) secures the holstered firearm by clamping on to both sides of the triggerguard when the gun is fully seated, and releases it upon initiation of the draw by pulling through the device. Both holsters fit 1.5-inch belt loops. (safariland.com; 800-347-1200)

MTR DOUBLE IWB MAG CARRIER

The Double IWB Mag Carrier is MTM Custom Leather's full-capacity, inside-the-waistband (IWB) magazine carrier. This mag carrier allows a concealed carrier to discreetly carry two backup magazines comfortably all day for self-defense. This carrier has a wide platform and two clips on either side for stability. The Double IWB Mag Carrier is backed with natural leather for comfort and to eliminate any rub off. (mtrcustomleather.com; 336-879-2166)



BARNES VOR-TX 10MM AUTO

Barnes Ammunition has expanded its VOR-TX ammo lineup through the addition of the 10mm Auto chambering into the series. The new addition broadens an ammo series that's also available in .357 Magnum, .41 Rem Mag, .44 Magnum, .45 Colt and .454 Casull. The new 10mm Auto load will feature a 155-grain XPB bullet. The XPB is an ideal handgun hunting bullet because of its maximum weight retention and its consistent accuracy potential. (barnesbullets.com; 800-574-9200)





V-LINE SLIDE-AWAY

The V-Line Slide-Away pistol box is constructed of rugged 12-gauge steel and features a mechanical push-button lock. The case's large pull-out drawer sits on ball-bearing-assisted slides. The drawer is large enough to hold two 1911-style pistols and four additional magazines or an iPad-style tablet. The Slide-Away is versatile enough to mount underneath a desktop or in a small area provided there is about 4 inches of vertical clearance. The American-made case comes standard with a mounting bracket for both top and bottom mounting. (vlineind.com; 805 498-4987)



ROCK ISLAND ARMORY TCM TAC ULTRA MS COMBO

Rock Island Armory's TCM TAC Ultra MS Combo in 9mm includes a two-dot adjustable rear LPA sight and TruGlo high-visibility front sights. The pistol is also equipped with front and rear slide serrations, a tactical rail and a G10 grip. The new TCM TAC Ultra MS Combo is chambered in .22 TCM and comes with a 9mm conversion barrel. The full dustcover rail evens the weight and reduces recoil. Other upgrades include an ambidextrous safety, a combat hammer and an extended beavertail for maximum comfort and safety. (us.armscor.com; 775-537-1444)



KIMBER SOLO CARRY SAPPHIRE

Able to deliver 6+1 rounds of 9mm on target, the Solo Carry Sapphire combines Kimber's renowned quality and ergonomics with dynamic style in one micro-compact pistol. Featuring an aluminum frame and a stainless steel slide and 2.7-inch barrel, the pistol weighs only 17 ounces unloaded. The Solo Carry's striker-fired design and rounded edges make it a natural for concealed carry. Easy-to-acquire Meprolight three-dot night sights sit atop the pistol's signature sapphire-blue slide. Sapphire highlights also appear on the pistol's controls and ball-milled grips. (kimberamerica.com; 800-243-4522)

GALCO KINGTUK2

Galco Gunleather's new KingTuk 2 holster is a hybrid design featuring Kydex and premium steerhide. The new hybrid design provides the best of both worlds: a comfortable backing plate made of lined saddle leather with Napa leather front, combined with a rigid Kydex holster pocket for a fast draw and easy holstering. The KingTuk 2 adds a fully-adjustable magazine carrier that attaches to a Velcro pad, keeping the pistol and spare ammunition together and readily accessible. The holster's removable metal belt clips fit belts up to 1.75 inches wide and can be moved up or down in the corresponding holes in the leather, enabling the user to set the carry height and angle to suit their unique preferences. (galcogunleather.com; 800-874-2526)



TETRA GUN CLEANER DEGREASER

The new Tetra Gun Cleaner Degreaser is a water-based formula designed to effectively remove lead and carbon fouling as well as pre-existing lubricant and solvent residue from firearm parts. The product also includes a special additive to prevent flash rust from forming before parts are re-lubricated. After wiping down gun parts, Cleaner Degreaser leaves virtually no residue. Unlike many traditional cleaners, Cleaner Degreaser does not contain petroleum, solvents or ammonia. (tetraguncare.com; 973-443-0004)



APO CUSTOM REFLEX-READY PISTOLS

The APO Custom Shop (APOCS) is offering practical/tactical pistol modifications with CNC inletted Trijicon RMR reflex sights. APOCS precision machines the pistol slides for the direct mounting of Trijicon's RMR ruggedized miniature reflex sights that co-witness suppressor-height night sights on popular handguns, including 1911-style pistols as well as select Glock and Heckler & Koch models. Depending on the make and model of the pistol being modified, shooters have the option of mounting the RMR with the rear sight behind or in front of the optic. (ashburyprecisionordnance.com; 434-296-8600)



HAZARD 4 WAISTLAND

Hazard 4's Waistland belt can be paired with the company's modular pouches to create different systems for belt-use, such as camera rigs, gun belts, job belts, travel belts, etc. The design's 3D air-mesh allows for comfort and breathability while on the go, while its quick-release buckle allows for the Waistland to be put on or taken off in a hurry. Made from 1000D cordura nylon, the MOLLE-compatible belt also features heavy-duty D-rings for use with shoulder straps or to clip on other accessories. The Waistland is available in black, coyote and MultiCam. (hazard4.com; 626-344-1454)



MAGNAREADY CCW SHIRTS

MagnaReady has designed shirts that allow individuals the ability to easily access their concealed weapon. Hidden inside the placket of each shirt are powerful magnets that link together for a secure closure. Decorative buttons grace the exterior of MagnaReady shirts for a crisp and professional appearance without the hassle of manipulating tiny buttons into buttonholes when seconds count. The shirts are available in men's sizes S-XXL in white, chambray, assorted patterns and solids. A women's line is also available. (magnaready.com; 866-635-8866)



RIGHT NOW RANGE

The Right Now Range combines high-quality graphics with three customizable shelves that are perfect for cans, fruit, clay discs and more for target shooting. The range is made entirely of heavy-duty cardboard, making it durable, portable and easy to use. Recommended for rifles, handguns, BB guns and air rifles, the Right Now Range comes with five stakes and six hanging toggles for target placement. Forget all the back and forth when it comes to resetting your targets and spend more time shooting! (rightnowrange.com; 615-307-0466)

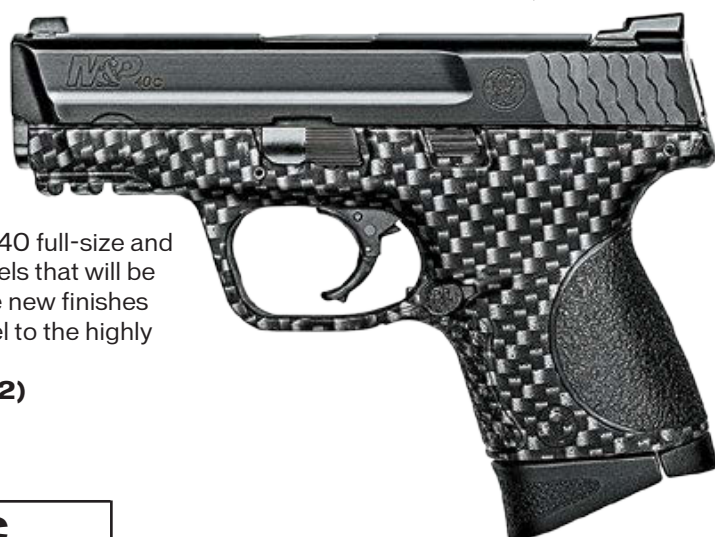


TAGUA IPH4 HOLSTER

The Tagua Gunleather IPH4 holster provides a variety of carry configurations to modern shooters by allowing one holster to be carried four ways. These configurations include on the belt, inside the waistband (IWB), small of the back and cross-draw. Made of high-quality leather and weighing only 0.43 pounds, the IPH4 is also available with a thumb break for added security during everyday carry. Available in black or brown, this is one of the most versatile holster rigs for concealed carry on the market. (taguagunleather.com; 866-638-2482)

SMITH & WESSON M&P FINISHES

Responding to the requests of fans of its M&P pistol line, Smith & Wesson has added new models to the series for 2015. The new models will be offered with a Flat Dark Earth frame or a carbon fiber finish. The M&P9 and M&P40 full-size and compact pistols are among the first models that will be available with the new finish options. The new finishes add a custom-grade appearance and feel to the highly popular striker-fired handgun series. (smith-wesson.com; 800-331-0852)



UM TACTICAL UMH3C HOLSTER

The UMH3c Holster has been well received by pistol shooters who use multiple guns because the holster actually is designed to fit the company's UM3 mount, making it universal for most full-size handguns. The holster features a slot cut in the front of the rig to allow for holstering with optics mounted. It also is designed with an adaptive belt mount system that allows for adjusting to almost any carry style. The holster is manufactured from Boltaron carbon fiber and was recently approved for competition use in the USPSA's Open division. (umtactical.com; 866-979-4486)



MAKO GROUP RTS TARGETS

The Mako Group now offers the FAB Defense line of RTS Target Systems, which provide instant target feedback to confirm the shooter's accuracy. With no metal parts in the target's design, there are no ricochets, ensuring the safety of shooters even from point-blank range. The RTS system is perfect for both handguns and rifles out to 300 yards, and the wireless hit-counting system accurately tracks and records hits, making it ideal for law enforcement training, shooting ranges and individual use. (themakogroup.com; 631-880-3396)



SPRINGFIELD RANGE OFFICER COMPACT 9MM

Springfield Armory has released a new 9mm variant of the Range Officer Compact to complement its popular .45 ACP design. The Range Officer Compact offers 1911-style ergonomics and performance in a package built for everyday carry. Featuring a 4-inch, match-grade barrel and thin cocobolo grips, the new RO Compact in 9mm offers the operator a total 8+1 capacity in a self-defense situation over the previous .45 ACP model, which held 6+1 rounds. (springfield-armory.com; 800-680-6866)





SHARE YOUR OPINION AND WIN!

200 winners will be randomly selected from the in-publication and online completed questionnaires received by April 17, 2015 to win a FREE Harris annual.

COMBAT HANDGUNS magazine is interested in your attitude, opinions, lifestyle and online presence. Knowing more about your interests will assist us in providing you with an even better magazine! Please go online to <http://tpr.combat-handguns.sgizmo.com/s3/> to complete the survey or take a moment to answer the questions below and mail it to the address shown at the end of the questionnaire, along with any

additional information you wish to provide. As a token of our appreciation for your prompt response by April 17, 2015, we'll enter your name into a prize drawing to be eligible to win a complimentary Harris Firearms magazine. No Tricks or Gimmicks! The (200) winners will be randomly chosen.

We thank you for participating.

About **COMBAT HANDGUNS**

1. How did you obtain your copy of **COMBAT HANDGUNS**?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription | <input type="checkbox"/> Drugstore | <input type="checkbox"/> A friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsstand | <input type="checkbox"/> Bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Convenience Store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website/Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting goods store | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Gun Shop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Merchandiser | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Show | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |

2. How many of the last 4 issues of **COMBAT HANDGUNS** have you read or looked through?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 out of 4 issues | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 out of 4 issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 out of 4 issues | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the last 4 issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 out of 4 issues | <input type="checkbox"/> New subscriber/reader |

3. Considering all the times you pick it up, how much time, in total, do you spend reading or looking through a typical issue of **COMBAT HANDGUNS**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 30 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 to less than 4 hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 minutes to less than 1 hour | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 to less than 5 hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to less than 2 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 hours or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 to less than 3 hours | |

4. Overall, how would you rate **COMBAT HANDGUNS** – the content, design... everything?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |

Please rate the quality of this magazine on the following:

| | Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Content | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cover | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ease of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Layout and Design | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please rate the following editorial sections:

| | Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ladies Only | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Self Defense & The Law | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gunsite Gossip | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wheelhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| It Happened To Me | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. Which of the following actions, if any, have you taken in the past 12 months as a result of reading **COMBAT HANDGUNS**?

- ☐ Requested information or a catalog
- ☐ Visited advertised website
- ☐ Purchased an advertised product / service at a retail establishment
- ☐ Recommended an advertised product or service
- ☐ Changed brands because of an advertisement
- ☐ Filed an ad for future reference
- ☐ Told a friend about something you saw in the magazine

6. Do you consume media digitally? That is for example: read magazines online, watch t.v. clips from shows in a tablet, etc.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Skip to Q 11)

7. Would you be interested in a digital subscription of **COMBAT HANDGUNS**?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Skip to Q 11)

8. What would you be willing to pay for a digital subscription of **COMBAT HANDGUNS**? _____

9. Which of the following do you use to consume media:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> iPhone | <input type="checkbox"/> Tablet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Android | <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop computer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackberry | <input type="checkbox"/> Laptop computer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> iPad | |

10. How likely are you to engage with branded content from advertisers (e.g. stories, videos)?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very likely | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat unlikely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat likely | <input type="checkbox"/> Not likely at all |

11. What do you do with a typical issue of **COMBAT HANDGUNS** when you and other household members have finished reading it? (Please check ALL that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Save the entire issue | <input type="checkbox"/> Discard/Recycle (Skip to Q13) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Save articles of interest | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass it along to others (Skip to Q13) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place it in a public area | |

12. How many times in the past year have you referred to back issues or articles saved of **COMBAT HANDGUNS**?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 2 times | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 – 10 times |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – 5 times | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 times or more |

13. What other magazines have you read at least three out of the last four issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gun World</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Soldier of Fortune</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>American Rifleman</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Guns & Ammo</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>SWAT</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Shooting Times</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>GUNS</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>American Handgunner</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>RECOIL</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tactical Weapons</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Guns & Weapons For Law Enforcement</i> | |

14. How do you rate yourself as a shooter?

- ☐ Experienced
- ☐ Active
- ☐ Novice

15. How many handguns do you own?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 – 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 – 49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 or more |

16. Have you had any custom work performed on any handguns you currently own?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

17. Do you plan on customizing any of your handguns?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

18. Which manufacturer and caliber of handguns do you currently own or plan to purchase.

| Manufacturer | Caliber | Currently own | Plan to buy | Autopistol | Revolver |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

19. Which of the following unexpired gun permits do you possess?

☐ Carry ☐ Hunting ☐ Other ☐ None

20. How many current concealed carry permits do you have?

☐ 1 ☐ 4
☐ 2 ☐ 5 or more
☐ 3 ☐ None, no not carry concealed

21. What purposes do you use your firearm? Check all that apply.

☐ Home security ☐ Competition
☐ Range ☐ On the job
☐ Personal security ☐ Other
☐ Hunting

22. Do you belong to, or intend to join any of the following clubs/associations?

| | Current member | Intend to join | Former member |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| NSSF | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NRA | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

23. How often do you participate in the following shooting sports/hobbies per year:

| | 1-4 times | 5-9 times | 10-19 times | 20+ times | Never |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Big Game hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fowl hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Target/Trap/Skeet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Shooter/Hunter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Competitive Shooter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plinker | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cowboy Action Participant | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

24. With whom do you generally shoot with?

☐ Children (under 18 years old) ☐ Coworkers
☐ Children (over 18 years old) ☐ Fellow Club Members
☐ Other Family Members ☐ Clients (as a guide/outfitter)
☐ Friends ☐ Nobody (participate alone)

25. Do you currently own, or plan to purchase (within the next 12 months) any of the following?

| | Currently own | Plan to buy |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Knife (non-kitchen cutlery) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conceal carry holster | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Leather holster | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shotgun | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Polymer holster | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nylon holster | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gun safe | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gun safety device | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dot Sight | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Personal Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Laser equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-lethal equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Custom made holster | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reloading equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Custom made knife | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chronograph | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Night vision equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

26. How many followers/friends do you have on:

| | 1-50 | 51-100 | 101-249 | 250+ | None |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Instagram | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| LinkedIn | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

27. How do you commonly access the Internet?

☐ iPhone ☐ Tablet
☐ Android ☐ Desktop computer
☐ Blackberry ☐ Laptop computer
☐ iPad ☐ Do not access the internet (Skip to Q31)

28. Do you research potential shooting product purchases on the Internet?

☐ Yes ☐ No

29. Have you ever purchased shooting equipment products over the Internet?

☐ Yes ☐ No

30. Do you read/follow online blogs that are about shooting/guns?

☐ Yes ☐ No

31. What is your gender?

☐ Male ☐ Female

32. Please select your age.

☐ Under 18 ☐ 35-39 ☐ 60-64
☐ 18-21 ☐ 40-44 ☐ 65-or above
☐ 22-24 ☐ 45-49 ☐ Prefer not to answer
☐ 25-29 ☐ 50-54
☐ 30-34 ☐ 55-59

33. What is the highest level of education you have attained to date?

☐ High school or less
☐ Attended college
☐ Graduated from college
☐ Postgraduate study without degree
☐ Masters degree
☐ Doctoral degree
☐ Other professional degree (M.D., J.D., etc.)
☐ Prefer not to answer

34. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation:

☐ Employed Full-Time
☐ Employed Part-Time
☐ Self-employed
☐ Not employed, but looking for work
☐ Not employed and not looking for work
☐ Homemaker
☐ Retired
☐ Student
☐ Prefer Not to Answer

35. Are you now, or have you been employed in any of the following lines of work?

☐ Military
☐ Law enforcement (SWAT, Patrol or Security)
☐ Security
☐ Private guard
☐ Executive Protection
☐ Private investigator
☐ Coast Guard/National Guard
☐ None of the above

36. What was your total household income before taxes last year?

☐ Under \$20,000
☐ \$20,000 – \$39,999
☐ \$40,000 – \$59,999
☐ \$60,000 – \$79,999
☐ \$80,000 – \$99,999
☐ \$100,000 or more

If you have additional comments to make, please put them on a separate sheet of paper.

**PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



MAXPEDITION INCOGNITO QUAD

Ready for everyday carry duties or even toting bug-out supplies, the Maxpedition Incognito Quad is a quad-pocket organizer that features a fast-opening lockable CCW pocket, a draw-bridge organizer pocket, a water bottle pocket and a first aid pocket that fillets open for quick, easy access. The main compartment is fully padded and sized for a 13-inch laptop, while the drawbridge pocket also features pouches that allow the user to carry spare magazines. Constructed out of 1050D nylon, the light-weight bag is water and abrasion resistant. (maxpedition.com; 310-768-0098)

PRESENT ARMS GLOCK ARMORER'S PLATE

Ideal for the professional armorer or civilian who maintains the Glock pistol, the Glock Armorer's Plate from Present Arms is strategically cut to provide an ergonomic, hands-free workstation for pin/part removal and complete disassembly of the firearm. Specific cuts hold the pistol's frame left- and right-side down for pin removal/installation. The system comes complete with the company's universal magazine mount and swivel, enabling 360-degree rotation and access for cleaning and repairs. (presentarmsinc.com; 413-575-4656)



SIG SAUER P320 SUBCOMPACT

The new P320 Subcompact features a 3.6-inch barrel, a 6.7-inch overall length and a weight of only 25 ounces. Like on all P320 models, users can swap out the pistol's barrel, frame, trigger and slide assembly to customize the gun. Each pistol's slide rides on all-metal rails in a solid stainless steel frame for greater stability. The pistol's serialized trigger unit lets you change everything from size to caliber to grip at will. Sig Sauer's P320 line has come to define modularity in the modern handgun marketplace through its Full Size, Carry, Compact and the new Subcompact models. The P320 series also now includes chamberings in 9mm, .357 SIG, .40 S&W and the soon-to-arrive .45 ACP. (sigsauer.com; 866-345-6744)

QUICKFIRE MULTI-PISTOL RANGE CASE

QuickFire's QF920R Multi-Pistol Range Case allows the serious handgun shooter to tote all their range supplies in a sturdy, foam-lined case. Weighing 14.5 pounds, the case has slots for up to four pistols, four boxes of ammunition, six spare magazines, cleaning supplies, eye protection and hearing protection. Two durable, easy-riding wheels with metal bearings make it easy to tow behind you. Backed by a lifetime guarantee, the case is airtight, watertight and dustproof. (quickfirecases.com)



HORNADY AMERICAN GUNNER

Hornady's new American Gunner line of ammunition is a do-it-all configuration whether you're target shooting, hunting or preparing for self-defense. The new ammo line combines proven ballistics technology with modern components for superior performance. The preliminary offerings for the American Gunner line feature Hornady's proven XTP (eXtreme Terminal Performance) bullets, which have been used for years by hunters, concealed carriers, law enforcement and competitors for their accuracy and penetration potential. The initial chambering offerings for the American Gunner line include 9mm, 9mm +P, .357 Magnum, .38 Special, .40 S&W, .380 ACP and .45 ACP. (hornady.com; 800-338-3220)



RUGER LCP CUSTOM

The LCP Custom combines a host of factory-installed upgrades to the venerable LCP, including a dovetailed rear sight with a photoluminescent front dot sight for easy target acquisition, a polished stainless steel guide rod and a wide, skeletonized aluminum trigger for reduced felt trigger pull. The new LCP Custom shares the same construction and ultra-compact dimensions of the original LCP. At only 0.8 inches wide and weighing less than 10 ounces unloaded, the LCP carries comfortably and easily, yet holds 6+1 rounds of modern effective .380 Auto ammunition. LCPs feature a lightweight and durable glass-filled nylon frame and ship with one six-round magazine. (ruger.com)



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metal tube. Slip the tool over the empty case, align the notch on the clip and twist; the empties snap out and fall into the handle of the tool. The Deluxe Moon Clip Tool will also pry the cases out of the clip.

Wilson Combat has a simple tool that does the job called the Full Moon Clip Case Extractor and Dillon Precision's Demooner is also a useful tool. Clips are susceptible to bending and breaking. I used two pairs of pliers to demoon half-moon clips and it was tedious work. I broke more than I emptied. Full moon clips are definitely easier to work with.

“...shooting .45 ACP cartridges through revolvers is not that much different than when our great-grandfather's fired them through M1917s.”

Finding .45 Auto Rim cartridges is difficult as it is virtually an obsolete round. Buffalo Bore and CorBon, however, do manufacture small lots. I turned to American Custom Ammo for my .45 Auto Rim ammo. American Custom Ammo specializes in the custom loading/reloading of commercial U.S., wildcat, proprietary, obsolete, exotic and rare rifle and handgun calibers, as well as European and Asian ammunition, both current and obsolete. The company loads its .45 Auto Rim with 200-grain Rainier flat-nose bullets.

With half and full moon clips loaded with new manufacture Black Hills, Winchester WinClean and a reload with a 185-grain semi-wadcutter, as well as a borrowed S&W Model 325 Thunder Ranch revolver, I proceeded to punch holes in paper.

The Model 325 is centuries away from the look of an M1917 with its 4-inch barrel, scandium alloy frame and stainless steel cylinder. It weighs 31 ounces, slightly less than a steel-frame, 5-inch-barreled 1911. The accuracy of the Model 325 was good at 25 yards with a variety of .45 ACP ammo and the one .45 Auto Rim load. The large-framed revolver's finger-grooved rubber grip helped absorb some of the recoil.

As the S&W 325 proves, shooting .45 ACP cartridges through revolvers is not that much different than when our great-grandfather's fired them through M1917s. For more information, visit smith-wesson.com or call 800-331-0852. **CH**

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Mec-gar

Mec-gar.com

Midwest Training Group

midwesttraininggroup.net

MTR Custom Leather

Mtrcustomleather.net

N82 Tactical

N82tactical.com

NIC Industries

Nicindustries.com

Pachmayr

Pachmayr.com

Panteao Productions

Makeready.tv

Pearce Grip

pearcegrip.com

Personal Defense World™

Personaldefenseworld.com

Present Arms

Presentarmsinc.com

Quick Fire Cases

Quickfirecases.com

Reboot

getfood3.com

Resco Instruments

Rescoinstruments.com

Robert Louis Company

Pistolaser.com

Rock Island Armory/ Arm Scor

ShootingDNA.com

Ruger

Ruger.com

SCCY

Sccy.com

Sig Sauer

Sigsauer.com

Smith & Wesson

Smith-wesson.com

Spartan Blades

Spartanbladesusa.com

Springfield Armory

Springfield-armory.com

Steyr Arms

Steyrarms.com

SureFire Institute

Surefireinstitute.com

Tactical Life™

Tactical-Life.com

Taurus

Taurususa.com

Taylor's & Co

Taylorfirearms.com

Umarex USA

Umarexusa.com

Viridian

viridiangreenlaser.com

VZ Grips

Vzgrips.com

Walther Arms

Waltherarms.com

Wilson Combat

Wilsoncombat.com



A JEFF COOPER RETROSPECTIVE

Excerpts from *Gunsite Gargantuan Gossip 2!*

COOPER'S COMMAND:
"As we all know, the Constitution grants no rights. It confirms rights which existed before the Constitution was written—and which still do."

FIGHTING BACK ▼

We have been informed by people whose opinions we respect that they get a great deal of pleasure out of those items in which we mention the victories of the good guys over the bad guys. We hope we are not the only ones who notice these things, but it is certainly true that the media in general are much more inclined to broadcast how dreadful it is to be victimized than how great it is to refuse to be a victim. A great many of the rabbit people seem to be literate enough to get the floor, and to broadcast how uncivilized it is to fight back. When they are aided in this viewpoint by the media, or the police, or the courts, this is deemed to be newsworthy.

When, on the other hand, John Citizen simply blows the bad guy away, this item, if mentioned at all, is used to condemn the fearful notion of "taking the law into one's own hands." Those who know any history—and fewer do all the time—realize that there are times and places when the law must be taken into one's own hands. We now have a situation in our major population centers in which the goblins assume that their victims are not armed and will not fight back. We have brought that condition onto ourselves. It is high time we changed it back.

HUNTER OR HUNTED? ▼

It had to happen. We now have in the Middle West "The Mad Bambiist." Between April 1989 and April 1992, eight outdoor sportsmen were murdered by a rifleman while alone in remote areas in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Investigation suggests that this was all the work of one man. The "animal rights terrorists" have taken the final step. This guy will never be caught by the police. He will have to be killed by a hunter who shoots back.

TAKEDOWN DRILL ▼

A reader recently called us in a state of some agitation resulting from an attempted armed robbery on his restaurant last month in Indiana. In the

middle of the dinner session, a goblin wandered into the place with a pistol in his hand and demanded money from the cashier. At this point the owner (who is our correspondent) came around the corner with a two-and-one-half-inch .357 in his hand, loaded with 125-grain JHP bullets. The owner ordered the intruder to drop his gun. Nothing happened, whereupon the owner socked the intruder six times in the chest region with his .357. Still nothing happened. Unusually, the owner had extra ammunition, so he reloaded and socked this bird six more times in the chest.

I asked him what the intruder was doing while he was being shot, and he said, "Nothing." He neither dropped the gun, nor attempted to shoot it, nor attempted to get away. The owner then reloaded a third time, and by the time the intruder had fallen down, he had been hit 18 times! The range was about 15 feet. The perpetrator in this case was so spaced out that his blood was sort of a green-orange color, according to reports. Those of you who have been here to school know about the Mozambique drill. The store owner had not. He now wants to buy a bigger gun, but we do not think that is the answer.

DEFENDER'S RIGHT ▼

In *The United States vs. Cruikshank*, the first case in which the Supreme Court had the opportunity to interpret the Second Amendment, the court plainly recognized that the right of the people to keep and bear arms was a fundamental right which existed prior to the Constitution when it stated such a right "is not a right granted by the Constitution, neither is it in any manner dependent upon that instrument for its existence." As we all know, the Constitution grants no rights. It confirms rights which existed before the Constitution was written—and which still do.

GUARD DOGS ▼

Paul Kirchner takes us to task for the assertion that here at Gunsite we turn

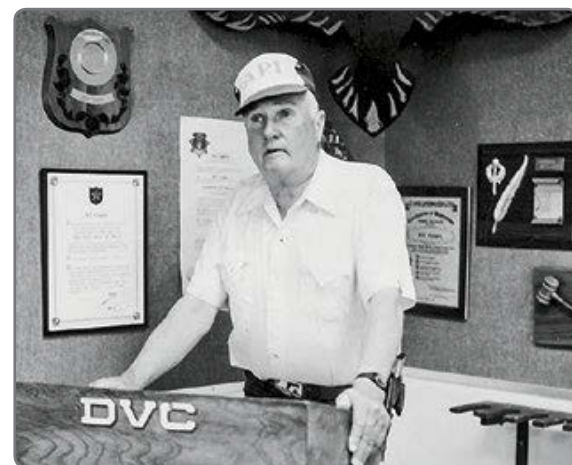


PHOTO COURTESY GUNSITE/GUNSITE.COM

rabbits into foxes. His position is that one cannot change the species. Perhaps what we do is turn pups into hunting dogs. A true rabbit would never show up at Gunsite in the first place. You got a point there, Paul.

CARETAKERS ▼

"Our safety, our liberty, depends upon preserving the Constitution of the United States as our fathers made it inviolate. The people of the United States are the rightful masters of both congress and the courts—not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

KNOW YOUR ROLE ▼

"The budget should be balanced. Public debt should be reduced. The arrogance of officialdom should be tempered, and assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome becomes bankrupt." —CICERO, 63 B.C.

CALLING 1911 ▼

It has been pointed out to us that the proper number to consider in the event of violent aggression is "911"—if you are of the rabbit people. Others will do better to place their faith in the number "1911." **CH**

Note: The intellectual property of Jeff Cooper is owned by Gunsite Academy and reprinted from *Gunsite Gargantuan Gossip 2* with their permission. Cooper's books are available from the ProShop (928-636-4565; gunsite.com) and jeffcooperbooks.com.



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